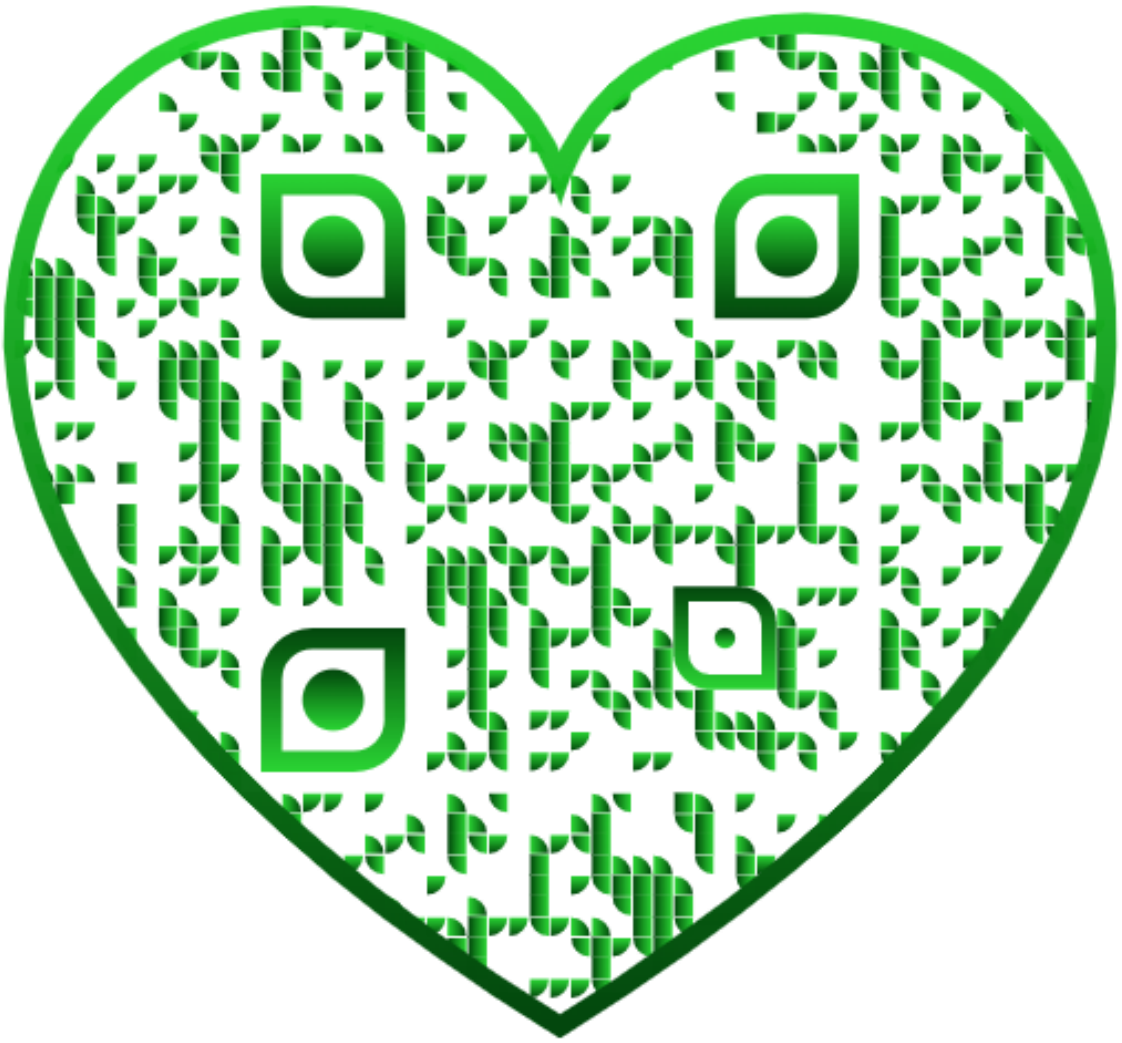
UFOs: THE IMAGE HYPOTHESIS

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF AN AUSTRALIAN KIND

Including a full catalogue of sightings

Keith Basterfield



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INTRODUCTION

If I had been asked to summarise my thoughts on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects at the beginning of 1969, I believe that I would have agreed that many people readily misinterpret what they saw in the sky, and that people in general just don't know what they are looking at. The different between the original stimulus and what you perceive is coloured by all sorts of things, including eyesight, your alertness at the time, your brain's interpretation and any inbuilt biases you may have towards UFOs. However, I would also have admitted I was puzzled by the close encounter cases, especially the ones involving 'beings'.

Books on the subject varied and their believable data seemed to be inversely proportional to the distance that the author stayed away from the scientific method. Indeed, very little methodology was present at all!

Official and scientific reaction was that persons were either drunk or high, or just wrongly perceived conventional objects. They were quite sure that after all these observations were taken into account that there was nothing left requiring further investigation.

There seemed to be only one thing for it for me personally . . . and that was to 'jump into the act with both boots on', and do some personal investigation of typical observations. Little did I realise that this was to lead me all over Australia physically, all over the world in books, magazines and overseas correspondence, and take the next ten years of my life.

This book sets out the doings, comings and goings, as an innocent in UFO land ventured forth and did battle with the 'mysteries of space and time', as someone described UFOs.

The narrative has been written in a personal form to maintain the chronological sequence of events which have led me to propose an 'Image Theory' as an explanation for the cause of the central core of the phenomena.

In the main I use only those cases which I have been able to investigate or those I have been closely associated with, in order to ensure that the information being presented is accurate.

I make no apologies to my fellow workers in this field for the contents of this work. Those who have known me through the years will realise that I have maintained an unbiased attitude as to the cause of the phenomena. My Image Theory is intended as a working one, not my final thoughts, just as the idea of extra-terrestrials remains unproven.

I see the UFO phenomena as a legitimate area of knowledge for science to study, and I hope this work may contribute some ideas for others to build on. I trust it may enable others to pursue this and other lines of research to ascertain whether there is any pot of gold at the end of this particular rainbow.

Keith Basterfield

1. LEARNING THE HARD WAY

Twinkle, *twinkle*, *little star*,
How I wonder what you are!
Jane Taylor, 1783–1827

The first chance I had of talking to a person reporting an event came in October 1971.

The incident was briefly mentioned in the 11 August 1971 issue of the *Yorke Peninsula Country Times*, although it wasn't until 2 October that I heard of it. I then travelled to the small country town of Kadina, 100 kilometres to the north-west of Adelaide to talk to the reporter involved.

Mr B. (name withheld at his request) left Wallaroo at about 6.30 p.m., having been to see his mother, and was driving back to his home in Kadina. He was alone in his car.

Approximately five kilometres out of the town, he noted that his surroundings were illuminated by an orange hue. He looked around: 'I thought that it was some clever bloke with lights better than mine, but when I looked in the rear vision mirror there was no car on the road'.

Suddenly the car engine stopped and the lights went out. However, the ignition lights didn't come on and, despite his efforts, the engine would not start.

The car rolled to a stop at the side of the road. Getting out of the car intending to look for some sort of explanation, he noted a buzzing or purring sound. He looked up and saw something almost directly above the car, at an estimated height of 5.0 metres.

It remained motionless for an estimated two to three minutes, with the noise continually audible. After this length of time, the object started moving and passed over an adjacent racecourse track, moving towards the south-east.

Before it was finally gone, he got back into the car and successfully started the engine and the lights came on. He drove home and told his wife of the incident. She immediately went outside. In the north-east she reported seeing a group of two red and one green object of a very small angular diameter.

Mrs B. then rang the editor of the local newspaper, and she and Mr B. spoke to him and his wife. The editor himself then went outside with binoculars and a camera, but couldn't see anything he considered unusual.

The object was described as basically oval in shape, with three or four 'windows' in its edge, and of a dark colour overall. The orange colour which was illuminating the road and surrounding fields came out of these 'windows' and also from the outer side of the object. There were two red and one green light on it, and Mr B. estimated that it was about ten metres across.

Mr B. was aged fifty-one years of age then and employed with the Australian Post Office in Kadina. He was married, and lived in an average country house with his wife. The editor of the paper knew him well and vouched for his truthfulness. When I arrived to talk to him, he was very cautious and actually began by saying that he did not want to discuss the incident further, as it had caused him considerable embarrassment at work. However, he finally consented to a brief interview, with the comments above

being written in after the conversation. He did not want any more investigation than this.

I had paid a call to the editor of the paper, and discussed the event with him and his wife. They had both confirmed the details as given in the newspaper account, saying that Mr B. had indeed rung them that night. They had talked to Mr B. In their own words, he had been in an obvious emotionally-upset state, unlike his normal self. They regarded Mr B. highly and were of the opinion that he must have experienced some kind of real event.

I then went to Mr B.'s home. After a discussion and informing him that I also worked for the same firm as himself, we went into his lounge and he reluctantly described the incident. Mrs B. added her comments about the lights she had seen that evening after her husband came home.

He was not interested in accompanying me to the spot where he claimed the car stopped, but he did describe it with reference to some concrete silos, and I was then able to find it later on.

Both Mr and Mrs B. struck me as down-to-earth types with no possible motivation for making up the event as described. After my talk with them I drove to Wallaroo and at around the same time of night as the incident – 6.30 p.m. – drove along the road to Kadina. At the concrete silos, I stopped the car at the side of the road and looked at the surrounding countryside. To the south lay the local racecourse and to the northern side of the road, flat paddocks which receded into the distance.

I noted that there were three houses within a kilometre or so of the location. I visited the first house but no one was home. At the next house I talked to the householder there. He had read of the report in the local paper, but could not remember anything special happening on that night, either visually or audibly.

The house closest to the location provided something better. The lady of the house mentioned that, on the evening in question, her husband had been under an infra-red lamp, at about 6.30 p.m. For several minutes it had gone off, for no apparent reason. They had no other lights on at the time. A connection between the two incidents had not occurred to them.

I must honestly admit that I walked away stunned from the investigation. Here for the first time I had met a person who told of a disc-shaped object stopping his car. On the trip home I went over the facts I had obtained looking for some flaw in the account. However, for every question I answered, there were several more which came to mind. What force could stop a car's engine? What caused the lights to fail? What was the disc? It was such a pity that he was alone, and that no other vehicles had come along the road during that fateful three minutes.

So I went away thinking about this case, and thought, and thought.

At about this time a group of interested people and myself set up a loosely-knit group to investigate reports and entered our numbers in the telephone

directory as wanting to receive calls from people who saw unusual things in the sky.

One night in January 1972, about 11 p.m., the phone rang and I was told that a man had just rang one of the group's numbers to report that an object as big as a bus had landed on a vacant paddock near his house. Few details were given, though we had an address. Two of us rushed down to the street in question only to find the house in darkness and no signs of anything unusual at all. A quick look around convinced me we had just been fooled – it was only a hoax!

A few days later it was our chance to have a laugh at the expense of one of the local radio stations and the RAAF. On the evening of 9 February the group received calls from several Adelaide suburbs concerning observations of one white light in the sky which travelled across the heavens rather quickly. The night was warm and clear and it seemed many people were sitting outside, taking advantage of the evening breeze. The light in question was observed to be flashing on and off as it went across the sky. At the end of its path it gradually faded from view.

The next night more people called to say that they also had seen this pulsating light moving from 45° South to 45° elevation North, where it disappeared in clear sky. There was no sound. The light was the size of a star and left no trail, tail or smoke.

This repeatability seemed promising, so at 9 p.m. the next night I was stationed in a friend's back garden, binoculars in one hand, camera on tripod nearby and cool drink in the other hand. Suddenly out of the western sky appeared a bright white light heading north at a very quick pace, crossing an estimated 45° angle in only a few seconds. This was our elusive light of the past two nights!

It flashed on and off until it faded from view in the northern sky. This personal observation told us exactly what it was – a satellite in earth orbit. Cylindrical and tumbling, it alternatively presented its long and short sides to us. When its long side was lit by the sun we saw a bright flash and when the end cross-section pointed in our direction it was almost lost to view. The fading out was due to the fact that the satellite had passed into the shadow of the earth and out of the rays of the sun. A check of satellite predictions showed us that it would probably have been a Russian booster rocket in a very low, 90 or 96-minute orbit with a flash period of about half a second. This explanation satisfactorily fitted all the details from the previous two nights' observations.

So, armed with this knowledge, we contacted a number of people and a radio station. The station listened patiently to our explanation and then confided to us that shortly before our call they had themselves concluded that the object in question was in fact a weather balloon launched from the local airport, with a light on it. Well, I had to restrain myself from laughing, for this was the first time that I'd seen a weather balloon zooming past at 29000 kph!

Finally, after much debate our explanation was accepted and broadcast over the air.

We had even more trouble telling the local Air Force base what the light was. Realising that they would also get their share of reports and having personally seen the light, we thought that an explanation fitting the facts should be conveyed to them. We telephoned the base only to find that the officer who received UFO reports was unavailable for a couple of days, and would we like to leave a few words with 'The Keeper of Messages'? At this stage we felt Eke saying that a flight of Mig fighters had just shot up the GPO clock!

I was amazed that, in 1972, fifteen years after the first earth satellites had been launched that so many people could fail to recognise an object in earth orbit with its various characteristics. So, for the benefit of those who don't know a balloon from a satellite and also for those who think they do, let's consider these bits of metal floating around our planet.

Seen at night, under normal atmospheric conditions, satellites appear as orange-white sources of light, very similar to stars. They may appear to wander across the sky dodging stars as they go, but this is illusionary, a visual effect caused by the actual path they travel. They may seem to zig-zag as they move but this is actually your eyeball doing the moving. Movement is always in the one direction; they do not stop and turn around, but travel in large arced paths. They may be seen travelling in almost any direction.

The sunlight falling on the metal they are made up of at 160 or more kilometres above the earth's surface causes them to be visible even though it is dark to an observer on the ground below. However, as they travel into the shadow of the earth cast into space on the opposite side to the sun, they fade as no light falls onto them.

The actual speed at which they travel can be deceptive. Overhead they seem to go faster than when they are near the horizon. This is because when they are overhead you are seeing the path from below whilst when close to the horizon you are looking almost along the orbit.

Satellites may flash or pulse as they pass over. This is due to sunlight being reflected off the sides as the casing tumbles. If two or more happen to be visible at the same time, and if they pass close to each other, there may be a false impression gained that they have 'met' each other or even joined together if they fade from view at this point. If your concentration lapses for a moment you might transfer your attention from one to the other, thus believing that the one you were watching had suddenly made a turn or back-tracked. Don't laugh! This has been the cause of many a UFO report before, and doubtless will be again.

Sometimes a satellite will re-enter the atmosphere and become incandescent as it vapourises. The most common colour for this is orange-red, although the actual colour depends to an extent on the metals in the satellite's construction.

These re-entering ones can explode or separate and are usually quite a sight for several seconds.

Duration of visibility varies and depends on the height of the satellite. For a low one in a 160 kilometre orbit, the duration is only several seconds, whereas for a high one up it is to 5.0 minutes

Now that we have had a look at satellites, what about that other oft-mistaken object, the weather balloon? As an example I'll give you the details of our local balloons, though these probably will vary to some extent elsewhere, especially the times of launch. Generally, though, the same particulars will apply all over the world.

Adelaide airport launches four hydrogen-filled balloons each day to record meteorological data. They all carry reflective radar targets, and two a day carry 'radiosondes' with measuring instruments to record temperature, pressure etcetera at differing altitudes.

Weighing between 100–850 grams the balloons are coloured white, fawn, red or black depending upon the cloud conditions against which they have to be visible, and have a diameter when filled of between 1.5 and three metres. They have a high rate of ascent somewhere in the vicinity of 350–400 metres per minute and reach a ceiling of about 15–40 000 metres before they burst and descend. The balloon has a parachute, a silver foil radar reflector below it, then a line to which is attached a radiosonde. This set-up or train may be as long as 5.0 metres from balloon to radio, so it can look quite impressive at close range.

Met. balloons launched during the hours of darkness sometimes carry a small 3-volt white light for visual tracking straight after release, but this is not visible at other than close range.

So, we can see that if you live close to the airport and see a flashing silver triangle, or a round semi-luminous object, it could well be a balloon.

Besides these weather balloons, in Australia, large research balloons are sometimes released to float around the world gathering weather information. These are very large – say, 100 metres in diameter – and travel at great heights. Possible spurious UFO reports could arise if they are seen as illuminated by the setting sun when the ground observer is in shadow.

A report which came during May 1972 was of interest and was most definitely neither balloon nor satellite.

A man was driving alone in his Toyota Corolla sedan at a speed of sixty kph in fairly thick fog (visibility estimated as forty-fifty metres), travelling northwards towards his place of work at Mannum, South Australia.

He crested a slight rise in the road and in front of him, through the windscreen, he saw lights about three quarters of the way up the screen. His first thoughts were that it was another vehicle on a collision course, so he pulled to the side of the road. He moved off the bitumen and stopped the car,

switched off the engine and the headlights, leaving his parkers and dashboard lights on. This action also turned *off* the radio (on 5AD at the time).

Now, at an estimated twenty seconds into the observation, he noted that there were in fact two lights of different colour. As he faced them there was a white one on the left and a red one on the right. These lights now appeared to be only halfway up the windscreen.

He stated that between the lights he observed a dark, oval shape.

The object then appeared to gain elevation and was lost to sight from the top of the windscreen. At this moment a noise was heard which was described as a soft swish changing to a schwoosh, which then diminished in intensity, taking only a few seconds to do so, and finally nothing was heard. The witness estimated that the whole observation took about sixty seconds.

Looking in his rear mirror, he anticipated seeing the object pass behind the car, but saw nothing. So, the witness slipped off his seat belt and got out of the car to look around. Nothing was visible of the object. He then proceeded the eighteen kilometres to work, passing no other vehicles on the way, arriving there at about 7.45 a.m.

Initially, two intensely bright lights were seen, and a shape which reminded him of a football. There appeared to be a darker mass towards the centre fading to a lighter shade – but still black – nearer the lights, thus giving him the impression of a gaping mouth. He compared the lights to looking at a searchlight in brightness, and their intensity did not fluctuate in any way. The man estimated that their angular separation was in the order of 2°, which did not alter throughout the observation.

On the available data the only conventional explanation considered likely was a helicopter. A helicopter can hover, move perpendicularly and could carry the necessary lights to explain the sighting, plus the noise. However, we had to wonder what a helicopter would be doing in this location, in the fog, whilst still dark.

To check this possibility, we sent letters to the Department of Civil Aviation who replied, ‘in this particular instance the location you speak of is not in controlled airspace and we are fairly confident that no civil aircraft was involved. The location is, however, close to an army training area and a service helicopter may have been in the area’, and the Department of Army who replied, ‘I wish to advise that no Army helicopters were in the Mannum-Murray Bridge area on the 31st May, 1972’.

The reported encounter at Mannum was in decided contrast to the flood of callers one night who reported that they were watching an object in the shape of an oval, moving among the clouds over Adelaide. Calls literally poured in over a three-hour period from all kinds of people, about this ‘thing’ as one lady put it. Between calls a quick look out at the sky revealed the cause. It was in

fact a searchlight shining onto the clouds! I think that it went to show that people seeing an oval light and no beam, thought that since they could not see a beam, it couldn't possibly be a searchlight.

In fact, one ex-sailor rang to report the same thing and was most insistent that his years of service in the Navy during the war qualified him to state quite categorically that the one thing that it wasn't was a searchlight! Unfortunately for all these people, the next day a used car firm revealed that they had been using a searchlight to advertise their services. The light was used again the next night but the number of callers fell away to almost nothing. Not even the ex-sailor rang.

This brings me to a point that I can't emphasise enough. Time and time again people say, 'I know what I saw', or 'I couldn't possibly have mistaken it for that'. Investigation shows that people do mistake satellites, aircraft, stars and balloons time and time again. The average individual, unless interested in astronomy, doesn't see things in the sky unless it's hot weather and they are sitting on the lawn for relief. So don't be afraid to suggest that you might be wrong about what you observe; report it all the same, but please give some thought to it being a mundane item.

July of 1972 brought a much publicised case from Victoria which caught my eye. I'll go into it in detail for it will feature later as a very important link in the theory I wish to present.

On 3 July 1972, a thirty-seven year old housewife of Rye, in Victoria, was driving near the railway crossing on the Mooraduc Road, between Frankston and Dromana, when she claimed the following incident occurred.

At 9.15 p.m. she was driving home in her 1963 Holden station wagon after visiting her son who was in hospital in Heidelberg. Just after passing a railway crossing, the road was lit up by a blue light. Thinking at first that the light was coming from a helicopter, of the sort which had taken her son to hospital, she didn't take too much notice of it, though later she recalled hearing no noise at all. Even so, it was too low for a normal flight, so she accelerated trying to get out of the light. She was unable to do so. She therefore slowed down thinking that the light would move on ahead. Instead, it stopped with her.

At this time, thinking that the pilot may have been trying to signal her for some reason, she stopped the car. This was something, she said, that she would not normally do on such an isolated stretch of road, especially since there were no street lights. She shielded her eyes against the light, looked up to see an object, and panicked, for it was shaped like two saucers, lip to lip. It appeared stationary some twenty-thirty metres behind the car, at an elevation of about 45° some twenty-thirty metres above the ground. The road at this point is eight metres wide and the object appeared four to five times wider than this, and about five-six metres high. There were no seams, windows, aerials, or protuberances of any type. A silver-blue light radiated from it, appearing

iridescent in nature, and it was this which lit up the road. A low humming noise, likened by her to an elevator moving, was heard whilst she was outside the car.

Her immediate reaction was to get away from it as fast as she could, so she returned to the car and drove off at high speed. As she was driving away, she noted that the object was visible out of the driver's window, and also out of the top of the windscreen. In fact, the object appeared to be keeping station over the car. This continued for twelve kilometres, then the object moved backwards. There was a streak of light, and it was gone from sight.

As the Rosebud Police Station was nearby, she drove there and reported seeing the object. The next day she called the RAAF and reported it to them. They sent out a form which she completed and returned.

The lady visited her son in hospital every Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 3 July being a Monday. This she continued to do until Monday 24 July, when, because of a petrol strike, she decided to go that particular week on Tuesday and Thursday. Therefore, on Monday 24 July she remained at home with her husband and daughter. At approximately 8 p.m., she thought she heard someone call her name. Her husband and daughter said they had not heard anything when they were questioned. However, she went outside but saw nothing to account for the voice. At 11.30 p.m. she retired to bed, but throughout the night she was unable to sleep properly because of a voice calling her name slowly. It was not her daughter; she was sound asleep. Thinking it might be an old lady she knew from down the road she went outside to have a look, but there was no one there at all. Upon recollection she later believed that the voice may have been inside her mind, not physically outside like normal audio messages. This voice seemed human.

The next night, Tuesday 25 July, she was again coming home from the hospital, when at the same location and about the same time another incident occurred. At the railway crossing she had stopped to let a man leading a cow cross first, then accelerated away. This put her a few hundred metres from the crossing at the time that the road was again lit up in the blue light.

She recalls her thoughts as being, 'My God, it's back' and then that she wasn't going to stop for anything, so she accelerated.

Suddenly the vehicle's engine cut off as if stopped by turning the ignition key. She tried turning the ignition key, but this had no effect. The car glided to the side of the road and stopped, all by itself. During the brief period it was gliding, turning the steering wheel did not alter the direction of motion, pumping the brake was to no avail, and putting the gears through all their positions did nothing. However, the lights remained on all the time. She maintains that there were no usual road bumps as the car came to a halt. There was no sensation of the road being under the wheels.

Naturally, she was terrified by this time.

All sounds 'drained out of all the air' and there was an eerie silence. She felt

'like I was sitting in a tube – a completely closed, vacuum tube'. Then she felt that she was receiving some audio impressions, but could not understand them, and thought 'I don't understand'. The impressions then were understandable as they were heard in 'perfect English'. She later related that this voice or impression sounded too perfect, just like a machine recording, and that they also appeared to be inside her head.

The voice said, 'All your tests will be negative'; was followed by a two-to-three second pause; then, 'Tell the media, do not panic, we mean no harm'; then another pause estimated as a minute long; finally, 'you now have control'.

During this period which lasted perhaps a minute and a half, she had remained seated with her two hands clutching the steering wheel. She believed she could have moved if she had wanted to, but she decided to remain still. As the audio impressions finished, the vehicle engine started itself, the blue tight went out and the object was gone. It had been again visible out of the top of the windscreen, but was no longer there. This coincided with the approach of another vehicle along the road.

She put the car into gear and once more drove to the Rosebud Police Station to report seeing the object. The police took her statement.

Going home, she called the RAAF and they again later sent her another form to fill out. As far as is known, no official Air Force investigation was carried out.

The next day she telephoned three television stations and one interviewed her. Radio Station 3AW had her speak on an open-line program, on which two other calls confirmed having seen something in the area at the time. Firstly, the wife of the man leading the cow called to say that her husband had seen a blue light but didn't go back to have a look; and secondly a couple reported having seen a blue light in the sky.

So passed two major events. However, after relating her story to a national magazine, she found herself at the centre of other odd occurrences.

In about September 1972 she relates that she came home with some groceries to find an old blue Holden panel van parked outside her house with a person in overalls sitting in it. Then she saw another man at her front door. This second man came across and helped her with her groceries, then asked if she was Mrs D. She answered yes, then invited him into the house, where her husband and children were. The man inside the van stayed where he was.

They went into the kitchen or lounge, where the man sat down. Mrs D. describes him as about 1.6 metres tall, with blue eyes and wavy, medium length blonde hair. He had an olive, almost Italian complexion, with very good skin. She claimed that his eyes seemed to 'pierce' her.

He wore a skivvy-type jumper, had a gold bracelet on one arm, and a golden chain around his neck which led down under his jumper. He spoke softly and behaved very calmly and gentlemanly all the time. He was there for about an hour. He said that he had obtained her address from the local post

office, a fact which Mrs D. later checked on. The post office people denied having seen the man, pointing out that he could more easily have gotten her address from the phonebook.

The man said that he came from Adelaide and went on to say that Mrs D. was a very special person. Should anything happen to the earth, he related, she and her family would be saved. He claimed that the messages she heard had really been for him, but that, she being a person that 'they' could trust and believe, she had received them.

He said she had been under surveillance by 'them' for some time before contacting her. The full meaning of the messages would not be known for some time. She would also have another contact at some stage. After the hour or so, he left in the van. Mrs D. did not note the registration number.

Later, on or about 22 February 1973, Mrs D. says she heard the voice again. The voice called all night long. In the morning she felt an eerie presence following her around. She got some sort of flash telling her to go back to the place of contact.

She rang a local UFO group and arranged to meet two investigators at the spot.

When she was driving to the place of contact a 'man' appeared in the car sitting in the passenger seat. He had long blonde hair, wore a ski suit looking Eke white satin, tucked in at the arms. The trousers went over his feet, and were baggy. He was sitting there looking straight ahead, legs together, hands placed on knee-caps. (He was not Eke the person who said he was from Adelaide).

As this was near an intersection Mrs D. nearly ran off the road and nearly crashed out of sheer shock. She noted that when oncoming car headlights shone on him, they shone 'through him'. After a short period he just wasn't there any longer.

She arrived at the spot where she was to meet the others, who were already there at this time. One of them got into the car on the front passenger's side and said there seemed to be a presence there. Her hair stood on end. Mrs D. then related what had happened earlier on the way to the location.

They then all sat in the car. The 'man' appeared again on the side of the road but no one but Mrs D. could see him. Mrs D. thought that the man was motioning her to get out of the car, but she refused to do so. The 'man' came over and stood by the car. One of the investigators got out of the car and walked to where the man was. The 'man' moved away from him. Mrs D. was asked to see if she could make the man appear to them as well. Mrs D. did this but the man shook his head.

Suddenly Mrs D. went into a trance-like state, holding on to an investigator's hand. Speaking, she related that she was in a round room with the man (1.6 metres tall). There was also a 'thing' in the room. The man suddenly disappeared. The thing was Eke a mushroom – stemmed with a flat

top and a dome on top of this. There was a half sphere inside, apparently floating around in a fluid. Roman-like numerals (I, II, III) with what looked Eke Egyptian hieroglyphics were on it. This ‘machine’ was swaying from side to side.

The man appeared again saying ‘describe what you see’, which she did. The two investigators heard a description of where she was. Then Mrs D. got upset because she could see no doors out of the room, nor any windows. There were no visible sources of illumination yet the room was well lit. She appeared to panic and started to cry, then ‘woke-up’ in tears. She could not remember anything she had said.

The investigators told her what she had described. They then went back to Mrs D.’s house for a drink of tea. While there, Mrs D. was again ‘taken’ in the same ‘room’ though this time she was conscious of being at home at the same time. This duality didn’t last very long.

About a week later Mrs D. was out driving with her son. It was a rainy day. The man appeared sitting between the two of them on the front bench seat. He then disappeared. They were on the Mooraduc road again, this time in broad daylight. While the man was there the rain ‘seemed’ to stop and the visibility was good. When he had gone, the rain was there again pouring down. She notes that this was not a normal event.

2. INTO THE UNKNOWN

From ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggety beasties
and things that go bump in the night,
Good Lord, deliver us.
Old Scottish Prayer

What's red, green and blue and changes colour fifty times a second? The answer is a star. You didn't think that a star could possibly be the cause of a UFO report? Think again, for stars are quite a commonly reported object.

Light travelling through the atmosphere can be interfered with as it passes through pockets of air at different temperatures and pressures and the light can be scattered into its component wavelengths. Thus your eye viewing a star low down near the horizon will not visually see a steady white light, but one which flickers and changes colour. Throw in a star seen low over a hill or the sea with no surrounding visual clues, such as a vertical electricity pole or the side of a building, together with a process known as autokinesis (which can make a point source appear to move around when it's only really your own eyeballs moving) and you have an oscillating, colour-changing pulsing light – easily reported as a UFO. Several bright stars in the sky produce reports in this manner with so much regularity that UFO research groups can almost tell you the months when people will suddenly notice stars and call in about them. Two of the main culprits in the sky are the stars Canopus and Sirius.

My personal favourite misidentification at this time was the planet Venus. Venus orbits the sun at a mean distance of some 108 million kilometres. As it is covered with clouds, it presents a brilliant light in the sky that is only outshone by the moon and the sun. I'd say that more false UFO reports have been generated by the planet Venus than by any other single thing. Not just simple reports but even police chases at high speed!

I'll give you an example which occurred in Taree in New South Wales.

The story began one morning when some PMG employees noticed a silver dot in the morning sky which puzzled them. This was seen for a few days at the same time and in the same position, and word soon spread. After a few mornings there were literally hundreds of people viewing the silver dot.

Newspapers had a field day with the story of the UFO, and the RAAF was quoted as saying that the one thing it couldn't have been was the planet Venus. The descriptions mentioned a silver light in the eastern sky which faded as the sun rose, although a westerly movement was noticeable. I put my bets down on it being Venus and sat back to await the outcome. Sure enough a few days later the villain was identified – Venus!

So much for the RAAF, the media and certain unnamed astronomers who said it couldn't be. It was.

Any astronomer worth his salt would have been able to deduce that Venus was the culprit from the newspaper accounts even allowing for the surrounding hysteria. Yet it was more than a week before a firm identification was made and even today some still talk of the Taree UFO.

It was a clear moonlit night in November 1972 when Mr M., a mechanic, finished repairing the suspension of his car and decided to take it for a test run. He was taking a short cut along a dirt road from the Princes Highway back to

Murray Bridge, South Australia. Upon coming over a slight rise in the road the motor and the lights cut out on the car. They came back on but rose and fell in intensity several times, so he cut the engine and stopped the car. He then noticed lights out in a paddock to his left at an estimated distance of forty-five metres. There was no noise as the lights in the paddock just went off and on very slowly. He saw a shape that he described as a 'diamond with the top cut off. Its red, green and purple lights were in the bottom half of the diamond. Its height was an estimated three metres tall by 1.5 metres across the widest (middle) point. Initially Mr M. thought that there must be something wrong with his car. When he saw the lights the radio started going 'funny' as well. It made a noise like a 'computer noise on TV', a constant rhythm.

As soon as he had stopped the car he had tried the ignition key but when he turned it nothing happened, not even the oil light came on. He then tried the wipers and the horn but they didn't work either. He locked all the doors and wound the windows up.

Scared for the first ten minutes, he thought that the object was something from outer space and he wanted it to go away. Altogether he estimated that he sat and watched it for some thirty-five minutes. After this length of time the rate of the flashing lights on the object increased. The object lifted off the ground to a height of some six metres with a whirring noise like a fan. It then travelled some 300 metres up a slight incline covered with trees and was lost to view in the distance.

Mr M. and a photographer from the local paper went to the site and inspected it shortly after the event. They found four shallow holes in the ground which appeared to have been caused by an air hose. The holes were in an arrow-head formation about a metre apart. Nothing else was noted in the area.

A UFO investigator interviewed Mr M. at the site on 9 December 1972, and obtained the above details from him. A few days before his car had been inspected. No apparent reason why the engine and lights should have played up had been discovered.

The investigator spoke to Mr M.'s employer who in turn spoke with Mr M.'s parents. His parents confirmed to his employer that after he came home and told his story he was 'as white as a sheet'.

Unfortunately when the investigator inspected the site sheep had been walking all over it and there were no trace of the holes at all.

It was several months before I went out to investigate another case and again it was out in the country and occurred to a driver.

Mr Z. was driving alone in his Bedford truck on a road between his and his brother's property at about 7.30 p.m. on a Wednesday.

He says he first noted a bright light at an estimated 5–10° above the north-northeast horizon, through the left hand side of his windscreen. Its angular size

was about that of the full moon – that is ½° with its colour reddish – white. No illumination of the surroundings was noticed, although the light was dazzling to look at, even for a few seconds.

Driving at sixty kph along the straight, dirt road, the driver watched the light as he drove along for about a minute or so. He didn't notice any change in size, colour, shape or appearance to any noticeable degree. It moved slowly up the windscreen at an angle of about 45° from his seated position, and then disappeared from his view. The truck's engine stopped and his lights went out, leaving him rolling along in complete darkness.

Mr Z. looked down at the dashboard; neither the red ignition nor the green oil lights were on. He instinctively declutched and braked slightly. After four to five seconds in this condition, but before the truck came to a stop, the engine and lights came back on by themselves. He looked around to his right, but there was nothing at all visible of the ball of light.

The duration of the whole event was close to a minute to a minute and a half. No sound was heard at all, when the truck's engine was on or off, and no odours detected.

Driving to his brother's property, he parked the truck there for an hour. When he came out the engine would not start for quite some time. The next morning, the engine refused to start and would not do so until the battery was removed and recharged. Yet prior to the event Mr Z. related that the truck had been used for seeding where he would stop and start it dozens of times a day, with no problems. From the time of the event to the time we interviewed him, the truck had given no trouble at all.

Our representative in Murray Bridge worked for the local farmers' co-operative and knew the population in the area concerned, including the Z. family. He conducted a preliminary interview and then we went up to talk to Mr Z. ourselves. We found him to be a quiet farmer who didn't particularly want to talk of the event as it had been quite a shock to him. However, he finally consented to describe the events so we made a short tape recording.

What apparently happened was straight forward and very simple . . . apart from two things. Firstly, there was the lack in change of size. Because the object had gained angular elevation as seen through the windscreen, Mr Z. had assumed it had approached and passed over him. Yet he also maintained that it didn't increase in angular size, and when he looked to his right there was nothing in sight. To us it seemed more logical that the object was on a parallel course with the truck and gaining elevation.

Secondly, Mr Z. was adamant that there had been no illumination of the ground even though the night was dark, with no moon. Again, a more correct appreciation would seem to be that the object was quite a distance away. Taking into account the fractional two 'blinks', which upon inspecting the spot we consider may have been caused by two trees 300 metres away from the track, we accepted this as a better suggestion.

We then inspected the dirt track which runs due east-west. Mr Z. had been travelling east at the time. The terrain was undulating to flat. It was flat in the immediate vicinity with a hill and some trees 300 metres off the road with scrub country beyond.

We inspected the truck and found the battery terminals were tight, as Mr Z. assured us at the time of the event. The battery was two years old. There seemed to be no reason why the oil and ignition lights wouldn't come on, if the engine had been completely switched off at the time. The time interval of four to five seconds was also puzzling.

Despite the cases of Mrs D., Mr M. and Mr Z., by the end of 1972 it was obvious to me that there were a lot of mundane explanations for most sightings and only a few cases where there seemed a strong possibility that an unusual event had occurred. It had brought me to realise that the average person could not in many cases identify natural objects in the sky. True, a lot of the time there were extraordinary circumstances, cloudy skies, unusual brilliance, abnormal viewing angles, and atmospheric conditions, etc. However, the fact remained that ignorance of mundane phenomena was the principle cause of the majority of all incoming cases.

Looking overseas drew the same conclusion. There seemed to be a high proportion of cases emanating from the USA and South America, but most had explanations based on the same causes as here.

Subsequently, I undertook a process of inspection of all the unusual cases from 1972 and played around with the day of the week the event fell on, the time of event, the place, and exactly just what did happen. I was hoping, as were others who had done the same thing before, to see some kind of underlying pattern. Perhaps one might find that all 'car stops' happened on a Wednesday, or that all observations of egg-shaped things occurred at 6 p.m. or somesuch. These are all the types of patterns which I believed should be evident if the phenomena had one underlying cause.

One set of data points did stick out from the mass of raw information and this was the fact that most good unidentifieds happened to persons travelling by vehicle in a country area – for example, Kadina, Eucla, Mannum, Murray Bridge. Usually these people were by themselves and there were no independent witnesses outside the vehicle. Also the event occurred at night.

This pattern fitted one hypothesis very nicely, and this was the extra-terrestrial hypothesis (ETH). Here we had ideal circumstances in which a human being is in a controlled environment, driving alone, in the dark (easily picked up from the air) in a country area where assistance is not easy to come by. If the extraterrestrial being wanted to observe human beings, then this type of situation would appear ideal. Stop the person's car and watch how he reacts.

The only other pattern which emerged and made any kind of sense was that if you plotted the date of the event against the cycle of the phases of the moon

then there emerged a pattern in which nine out of ten observations fell during one quarter of the lunar cycle – that is, between last quarter and new moon. Add the fact also that in each of these ten cases the event occurred when either there was no moon or the moon was very close to rising or setting and you found out that it was close to pitch dark at the time of the event. In the country at night with no moon, it is dark and I mean dark. Have you ever been in a pitch black environment? I have, and you don't feel like stopping in it for very long as your senses seem to become almost useless.

So, by the end of 1972 I had been involved in the investigation of some typical UFO events, including entities, car stops and close encounters with many odd things.

1973 brought some very intriguing things beginning with a multiple witness event in South Australia which really baffled the group of us who went to a remote country town to interview the people involved. There were four people who had reported seeing the object but we managed to talk to only two.

A young couple we interviewed were travelling together in one car. In front of them, as later determined, was a Mr I. Following both cars was a semi-trailer driven by a Mr D.

Firstly, the young couple. They were some fifty kilometres from Kimba, driving from Iron Knob, after coming from Port Pirie. Mr H., who was driving, noticed what he at first called a red flare, to their right and forward, just off the road in a clearing. As he passed this clearing he had a brief look at what was there. He reported seeing a rectangular shape, orange-red in colour, three metres high by 1.5 metres wide, with a sharply defined figure in what he called a 'white spacesuit', floating in the middle of the shape.

This figure looking like an ordinary human figure in respect of shape and outline, appeared to be motionless a metre or so above the ground, with a metre of orange colour below him. His arms and legs were pointing lightly downwards, covered all over in white. It should be remembered that this description is based on at the most a two-three second look.

The driver accelerated the car from the ninety kph he had been doing. At the same time he motioned Miss F.'s attention to their right. It was some seconds before she understood, but she turned in the seat to look.

She relates that she saw a deep orange, rectangular-shaped thing, with a white blob on top of it, in the clearing. She turned around to comment on it and, upon turning back, observed the orange glow now appeared to extend right across the road behind them. Several seconds later she looked again, but they had gone over a slight rise and nothing was to be seen. All this time Mr H. had been concentrating on driving.

The couple drove at speed to Miss F.'s house in Kimba. Her father heard the story, and shortly afterwards the local police were called. Police Constable Peter Summerton attended the call, and took the couple out to the clearing.

The three arrived back there by 11.10 p.m. and a good look around was had. The ground was searched for tracks but none of any kind could be found. No evidence for a hoax was noticed.

In the days that followed the truck driver related to the Kimba police that he had passed the same spot at about 10 p.m. He said that inside the fence line there was something which had appeared to be a brightly Ht caravan doorway, except it was much taller than a normal doorway, giving it a rectangular shape that was twice as high as wide. It had a white, outlined shape inside it. He did not stop to take a look.

Mr H. related that a car had passed them just prior to their reaching the clearing. The driver of this vehicle, when located, says that as he passed the clearing he saw 'a glow of light, rectangular shape, orange in colour', which would have been, a chain or two, outside the normal fenceline.

This case first came to light through a newspaper dipping from the *Whyalla News* of 16 February. The story didn't reach us until 24 February. We telephoned Mr H. in Kimba but he wasn't available. A reply paid telegram was sent and a reply received. Finally, we made arrangements to interview Mr H. and Miss F. on 3 March.

On the way between Iron Knob and Kimba, we stopped at the sighting location. The terrain consisted of flat land, with three to six metre high trees and small scrub set in a deep reddish-orange coloured dry soil.

A barbed wire fence line lay some twenty to thirty metres from and parallel to the road at this point. Visibility was limited to about fifty to 100 metres into the scrub, depending on your angle of vision with respect to the trees.

We then travelled into Kimba and firstly called on Miss F. Her father confirmed that on the night in question the couple had returned there at about 10.30 p.m. He had noticed that Mr H. was white faced and trembling so much that he was unable to light a cigarette for himself. The couple had then related the occurrence, as a result of which the police were called.

We then made a telephone call to the local police constable. His wife answered and suggested that her husband come over to join us.

When he had arrived, the young couple again related what had occurred at the time. The events relating to the police participation were confirmed by the constable. He confirmed that he had been out to the site and inspected it, but had found no evidence for any sort of conclusion to be formed.

He produced his notebook and advised us of the details he had noted down that night, including a sketch of the object and 'man' as drawn by Mr H. Two other people had subsequently reported to him that they had also seen the same or a similar object on the same stretch of road that night.

His notebook had Mr D., the semi-trailer driver, confirming that he passed the clearing at about 10 p.m. that evening; that he had noted a large 'caravan doorway' with a figure in it, in the middle; and that there were no sides, top or

bottom, to this doorway as a normal caravan would have. He had not stopped at all.

Mr I., the driver of the second car, stated in a letter to us that he saw an orange glow on the right hand side of the road. It was 'a glow of light rectangular shape, orange in colour'. He said that he would have placed the clearing some fifty to fifty-two kilometres out of Kimba. The couple, after seeing the object, stated they had travelled about three kilometres before they saw a signpost saying fifty kilometres to Kimba, and they considered their location accurate. He wrote that he thought it could have been an accident, so slowed down. He realised that something wasn't quite right and, since there was another car following (Mr H.'s), he decided to wait and see if they stopped at the 'accident'. As the car following accelerated after passing the clearing, so did he, and arrived in Kimba first.

Constable Summerton then took us out to the clearing he had inspected on that night. The clearing itself was semi-circular, about 100 metres across. It was clearly visible from the roadway once you were level with it, but not when approaching it. The following side was fairly open and would fit in with the girl's description of being able to turn back to have a look.

We conducted a rigorous search of the ground and the trees and scrub. No marks, depressions, burns, rope marks on trees and so forth were revealed. However, it should be remembered that we were there four weeks after the event, and there had been rain in between.

All in all, we were left with the impression that some real event did indeed occur, and that it was so unusual that not one of the witnesses decided to stop and have a closer look. This was a great pity because, if they had, it would no doubt have given us a wealth of other details.

It wasn't too long before the next incredible report came in. At about 3 a.m. on a day believed to be 6 September 1973, a Miss R. had been asleep for about an hour in the passenger's side of the cabin of a semi-trailer which was travelling between Adelaide and Perth. She related hearing a voice telling her to wake up and look out of the window. She looked out and saw an object off to the left hand side of the road, stationary. As the truck continued on along the road at about seventy to eighty kph she closely studied what she states was clearly visible as an egg-shaped object on the ground illuminating the surroundings. A 'figure' was noted walking towards an opening in the egg, with another 'figure' visible inside the object. Then the glow which had been surrounding the egg died down, leaving only one small white light shining. The whole event seemed to last for seconds only, then she asked the driver to stop. By the time he did so and they looked back a white light was the only thing visible.

The object was on the left hand side, at an estimated distance of fifteen metres, and stationary at all times. As Miss R. watched she firstly had an end/side view, then a front view and finally a view of the other end/side. It

was on the ground with the bottom portion hidden by scrub. Appearing oval in shape, it had openings which Miss R. said looked just like a door and a window. The overall size was estimated as about three metres high by five to six metres long. The entire thing was 'alight' with a white glow which seemed to come from all over and inside it. This glow illuminated the ground and air, gradually fading off as distance increased from the source. She is uncertain, but feels the oval may have been semi-transparent as she thinks she followed the movement of the one figure getting in and moving around inside other than by seeing through the door and window.

It was as soon as she noticed the object that she also became aware of two figures. One was visible through the window, from the shoulders up, and the other was walking into the object's illumination. This second figure appeared to be looking at something held in his hand. He walked to the door and stepped inside, moved to the left, appeared to talk to the figure sitting down, then reached up one hand to the back wall, and then the glow surrounding the egg died down.

This action of the glow dying down was described as completely unlike anything she had ever seen before. The glow seemed to shrink in size until just surrounding the egg, then dimmed to nothing.

Although her viewing time was short, she was able to notice a great deal of detail about the scene, including the two figures. They were of human height, about 190 centimetres tall, of average build with a neck, two arms and a body. There was in fact, no difference between seeing them or a human being at that distance.

The figure who walked into the glow was wearing a one-piece, loose-fitting white or silver-coloured outfit which seemed to be gathered in at the ankles and wrists. The figure sitting down was dressed in the same way as far as she could see.

In great detail, Miss R. explained she had felt tired and had curled up on the seat intending to sleep for some hours. At about the time in question, she 'heard' a male voice 'warmly' and softly telling her to look out of the window. In reaction to this she felt she woke up feeling fresh and immediately looked out of the left hand side to see the object and figures. Apparently at no stage was this visible to the driver. She is adamant that it was not the driver who woke her up, as he then asked her what she was doing when she woke and moved slightly to look out of the window. The driver did not mention seeing anything as the truck approached the spot, where presumably the object should have been as Miss R. awoke. Miss R. watched for several seconds wishing to take in all the details, and then when the glow had gone out asked the driver to stop. Her recollection as to whether they got out of the truck is vague. However, she does recall that the driver was not particularly interested in a white light that was visible behind them, so they drove on.

Miss R. is English and was thirty-two years of age at the time. She had

migrated to Australia from East Anglia in 1971. Since then she had spent her time travelling around Australia just seeing the country and working in various places. At the time of the interview she was working in a town store. She related that she had heard stories of UFO 'abductions' and said that she had been determined not to stop the truck, until the light went out.

I had thus been fortunate in talking to three people who claimed to have witnessed entity events at Clare, Kimba and Ivy Tanks, and the similarities involved struck me. The 'entities' (for want of a better word) were very much Eke humans. They possessed arms, legs, human proportions and human features. They were far from science fiction ideas of bug eyes monsters with sixteen tentacles and four eyes. But did this mean anything? I began to wonder just what these people's concepts of aliens would be and just how much of these, their own precepts, would be projected into an event?

Looking around at world-wide accounts one gained the impression that there was a wider variety of aliens reported by people. These ranged from small dwarfs, through humanlike entities, to giants. However, my thoughts came back to the idea that culture would probably account for the colouring of a person's story.

Up until 1973 one class of UFO reports had been fairly well ignored by most UFO researchers, and these were 'abduction' cases accounts where people claimed that not only did they see a UFO and entities but that they were taken away by these beings and in most cases examined before being returned to earth again.

Probably the most famous case of earlier times that many people have heard of in one way or another was the Betty and Barney Hill adduction case which came out in fine detail during hypnosis sessions.

Just as I was beginning to read up on accounts of such cases the newspapers beat me to it and carried details of such a story from Pascagoula, Mississippi USA, which sounded unreal. It was only one of a handful which had received scientific investigation within a few days of it occurring, although no absolute proof of reality could be established. Resulting claims of hoax resounded around the world for months afterwards.

Two fishermen claimed that they had been out fishing when they were grabbed by three robot style entities who emerged from a blue UFO one night in October, at about 9 p.m.

The two men related that once on board they were examined by a detached eye-like device, as if being medically given a checkover. They were then released and the object disappeared at great speed. Scientific examination of the men's story could not break their conviction of the reality of the event, even under hypnosis. However, later one of the men reported three other incidents, one of which described the same beings, and this had led to suspicion that either the original episode was made up by the two, or that now

they were elaborating on a basic event. The other witness declined to have much to do with these later claims by the one man.

So passed two years of active investigations. I had learnt a lot and understood now that only a fraction of events remained truly puzzling in terms of not being able to stick an ‘explained’ tag on each case.

The ensuing years brought many more such events along similar lines but to describe them would be merely to bore the reader. I will instead summarise these events and my investigations into various categories and examine these closely one by one.

3. DIGGING IN DEEPER

'*Curiouser and Curiouser*! *cried Alice*'.
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Lewis Carroll (1832–98)

In this chapter we are going to examine classes of reports. As you will have noticed so far in our examination of the phenomena there are distinct types of events which have been occurring ... for example 'car stops'.

However, before we do so, I want to go a little bit into how we 'perceive' any event. My thanks to John Burford who provided this summary as part of an 'Investigation Guide' prepared for use by members of the South Australian UFO Research Group.

In analysing and investigating reports of unidentified flying objects, it is handy to have some basic ideas of the process of perception. On the surface it may seem that a witness sees an object and that what he tells you he saw is exactly what the object looked like. Things are not quite that simple, as we have found on several occasions.

Perception actually involves a chain of events, and any link in this chain can provide ample deviation resulting in the image of an object in the mind of the observer being somewhat different to the object's actual structure. Sometimes it is even possible to 'see' a non-existent object. Similar sensory errors can be made with hearing.

The perceptual chain begins with some object, either reflecting or generating light energy, at some distance from the observer. This light travels through some media, usually the atmosphere, then through the sensor (the eye). It then passes via the optic nerve to the brain where its form is perceived, and the observer makes some interpretation of the resulting image. If the image is sufficiently strange, and the observer is so motivated (by curiosity, duty, etc.) he may then report his sighting to some interested party, who listens to his description, and himself forms a mental picture of the event.

Now, if we inspect this process piece by piece, the allowance we must make in investigations for inaccuracy and distortion will become evident.

a. *The distal event*. Assuming that the witness is not imagining things, most UFO reports are generated by an actual physical phenomenon perceived by the witness. All that need concern us here is that, whatever the phenomenon, it either reflects or transmits light energy in all directions and specifically towards the witness.

b. *Transmission*. Between the phenomenon and the eye, the light emission or reflection passes through some medium, usually air. In normal UFO events, there is some distance between the UFO and observer. Firstly, the greater the distance, the weaker becomes the signal, according to the Inverse Square Law. In other words, a light becomes a quarter as bright at double the distance. Secondly, various mediums, not necessarily noticed by the witness, may interfere with the transmission ... fog, smoke and haze. Thirdly, the density of the medium may vary, and a pocket of warmer and cooler air may bend, diffuse or otherwise distort the light 'signal'. This distortion varies; it may be negligible or it may magnify the apparent size, alter its outline, or make it appear to move when it is really stationary.

c. *Sensation*. Finally reaching the eye, several more things can happen. Firstly, we hope the witness is not colour blind, long or short-sighted, or suffering from a astigmatism. The light reaches the receptor and passes along the nerves (which hopefully function well) and travels from cell to cell in what we hope is a normal functioning brain, and is registered.

But even in a normal system with no major faults, there are still many variables. Apart from an object's brightness, and even colour, seeming to vary by contrast with its background, a witness' eye may be adapted to the lighting conditions in varying degrees. If you have jus come from a darkened room, ordinary torchlight may seem to blind you; but if your eyes are adapted to sunlight you may not even notice that the torch is on.

Then, the observer's physical state is relevant. He may be ill, intoxicated, exhausted or dizzy and his observational powers will vary accordingly. Spontaneous discharges in the brain's sensory system may seem to him to be distant events such as small bright spots of light.

d. *Proximal stimulus*. Apart from various physical and optical distortions, interpretation of size and distance can produce further problems. A nearby small object may cast the same-sized image on the eye as a larger distant one. Similar complications arise when two lights are the same distance from the observer but are of different brightness. The dimmer will appear further away and, if they flash alternatively, they may appear to flash back and forth. A light going off at one point and another coming on nearby may seem to be the same light having jumped the distance involved.

Thus an error in interpreting any of the factors of size, distance, height or speed can result in corresponding erroneous conclusions concerning the other factors.

e. *Perception*. This is the process of interpreting and identifying an object. Such interpretation depends on the amount of information available about the object itself and on the observer's store of knowledge and past experience.

Most people will arrive at some conclusion, however, even if the information is logically, geometrically, or visually insufficient to give an unambiguous result.

Autokinesis, as is called the illusory motion of fixed objects against an unrelieved background, is well demonstrated by the number of people who call to report the planet Venus 'swaying in the sky'. If an object appears to be moving this alters the list of things it might be and so alters perception. Angular elevation is often badly misinterpreted, and so is angular velocity. Both these add to the observer's thinking.

f. *Cognition*. This variation in personality will affect how a person sees things. Some people may look for pictures in the fire or in clouds and, while what he sees will tell us a lot about his personality, it does not help us to find out what is actually being seen. What anyone notices, pays attention to and interprets depends on his personality, background, training, experience and

attitudes. The less visual information is available, the more these internal factors will affect the description the investigator is given, often without the witness being aware of it.

g. *Reporting*. Whatever prompts the observer to report an event, the resulting interview, unless properly carried out, can further distort the description. Open questions are by far the best interview technique ... for example, 'Tell me just what you did see'. A non-commital scientific attitude will at least allow a fairly reliable and undistorted account to be extracted and made available to the interested public, who can then be free to draw their own conclusions.

h. *Evaluation*. The one thing to remember is that the human factor is necessarily a part of all the reports we are likely to come across, and allowances must therefore be made for faults in the system whether they are due to atmospheric distortion or eye fatigue. Experience and an open mind will soon enable an investigator to handle such factors.

Now, with a basic idea of perception, we can pass into our first category ... cases involving motor vehicles.

One gets the impression that a case which entails the reporter describing how the lights and engine of a car failed, whilst an immense metallic disc hovered over the vehicle, should produce some residual physical evidence. Several hundred reports have been collected from all over the world, yet not one case has produced solid physical indications to support the verbal testimony that will stand up to scientific analysis.

Press reports of spectacular car cases almost always lead to a very much watered down story by the time investigations are complete. Usually we are left with a solitary witness, who was driving at night in an isolated or country area.

In order to get one's teeth into the aspects let's first make a summary of reported vehicle cases from within Australia over the years:

18 May 1963, *Beachport*, *S.A. 0700 hrs 2 min*
The radio in a car cut out as a round oval shape was seen over the car.
4 April 1966, Bourkes Flat, *Vic. Evening*
A car's headlights veered 90° as a column of light was seen in an adjacent paddock.
30 March 1967, *Peterborough*, *S.A. 2030 hrs*
The engine of a car stopped as a disc shape rose from the ground.
13 October 1967, *Boyup Brook*, *W.A. 2130 hrs*
A man in a car going along at 105 kph said the car stopped dead, lights and motor and radio cut out. Blue object ahead of car shining a beam into it. No feeling of deceleration. Suddenly object left and car then going at 105 kph again, but no acceleration.

20 February 1969, *Norseman*, *W.A*.
A fully-fuelled car gasped as if out of petrol as a 9.5 – metre long cigar was seen twenty-four metres away.

8 August 1971, *Kadina*, *SA. 1845 hrs 3 min*
PMG employee's car engine stopped as 9 – metre disc hovered forty-six metres above car. Car refused to start until object left.

25 July 1972, Frankston, Vic. 2115 hrs
A car took control of itself as a blue disc hovered overhead and would not respond to driver, until it restarted itself and she was then able to drive away after object left.

30 November 1972, *Murray Bridge*, *S.A*. *2315 hrs 40 min*
The lights and engine of a car 'played up' so the driver pulled up. The radio made a 'beeping' sound and, although he tried the ignition, nothing came on, not even the oil light. The wipers and electric horn would not work, either. A diamond shape was seen in a nearby paddock. After this left the car was as normal.

2 May 1973, *Kalyan*, *S.A*. *1930 hrs 2 min*
A Bedford truck's lights and engine cut out for four seconds and the oil and ignition tights didn't come on. Four seconds later they came back on by themselves. The battery was found to be flat next day. Object seen in the distance.

22 September 1974, *Tayene*, *Tas*. *1720 hrs 3–4 min*
A car radio developed a high pitched whistling noise as an object came within twenty to thirty metres.

July 1975, *Hobart*, *Tas*. *2130 hrs 2 min*
A car became hot then stalled and rolled to a halt. A spherical object was seen 200 to 300 metres away. The object left and the car was alright again.

March 1976, *Tea Tree Road*, *Tas*. *2200 hrs 30 min*
Five lights orange in colour were seen and EMF effects on headlights of a vehicle noted.

15 July 1976, *Walkers Flat*, *S.A. 2115 hrs*
The lights of a car were affected by an object close by. Detail from newspaper report; however I could not contact alleged witness.

4 February 1977, *South-East S.A*. *About 2100 hrs*
Whilst driving towards Mt Gambier, two people observed tights following the car. The car speedo broke and clock stopped.

22 April 1977, *Yatala Vale*, *S.A*. *2345 hrs 4 sec*
For a few seconds a car's engine, tights and radio went off as a soundless oval seemed to pass over the car.

2 July 1977, *Sandfly*, *Tas*. *2300 hrs 1 min*
A bright tight followed 200 metres behind a car, the car lost power and had to be clutch started.

In pursuing causes for these apparently inexplicable events involving vehicles and UFOs I decided to split them into two categories, namely side effects and 'stoppages'.

Unfortunately few details are available for cases such as Beachport, Peterborough, Norseman, or Walkers Flat, either due to age or the fact that little documentation exists on the report. We might therefore divide the remaining into:

(a) side effects: Bourkes Flat, Tayene, Mt Gambier

(b) stoppages: Boyup Brook, Kadina, Frankston, Murray Bridge, Yatala Vale, Sandfly, Kalyan

Let's take a look at group (a) firstly, as they represent cases where side effects, if we may call them that, have occurred. We have one case of headlights being bent, two of radios being affected, and one where a speedometer, clock and performance were reportedly abnormal.

As only one of these three has been personally investigated I'll start with it ... the event at Mt Gambier. It happened on 4 February 1977 to Mr and Mrs L.

Mr and Mrs L. were returning home from Meadows after attending a funeral, and had stopped at Kingston for some refreshments at about 9 p.m. Just out of Kingston (Mrs L. was driving), they noticed two large yellow-orange lights to the rear of the car at road level. After a while these lights disappeared and seconds later they were replaced by two smaller 'rainbow' coloured lights. These lights appeared to move up closer to the car. Several times they weren't there and then seconds later they would be seen up in the sky. This alternating of position continued for a while as they travelled home. During the trip their car clock stopped and the speedometer was out of action.

Initially these were two yellow-orange spheres side-by-side (horizontally) and visible at road level behind the car. They weren't seen to leave that position but, upon the couple looking back, they weren't visible anymore. Seconds later two smaller 'rainbow' coloured (multiple coloured with a stronger reddish colour than blue) lights were seen in the same position, side-by-side. They were behind the car at all times, but appeared to be closer at times according to Mrs L. However, she said that there was no change in size or brightness during these 'closer approaches'. Sometimes when she looked they would be visible at road level and at other times seemed to be up in the sky.

They were dull in appearance as if visible through fog, though there was no fog apparent in the area. One or two cars came from behind and passed their vehicle, and one car passed in the opposite direction. The set of lights stayed at road level and Mrs L. was able to see both the car lights and the UFO lights together on this latter occasion.

About twenty-five kilometres out of Kingston on the Millicent side, one of them noticed that the speedometer wasn't registering the correct speed (this being after they had noticed the lights). Later, after the trip, Mr L. fixed a

broken cable in the speedometer, but this subsequently broke and needed a garage repair. It was found to be bent inside.

At about the same time, the car clock was noted to have stopped. It later restarted itself at about Millicent. Upon arrival at home it was found to be slow (seventeen to eighteen minutes given at initial interview, and forty-five minutes slow indicated on a later questionnaire). Mr and Mrs L. made no attempt to alter or fix the clock while they were going along. They maintained they had no problems with it before or since. Mr L. relates that the clock stopped when the objects were behind them and restarted when they rose up. There was no radio/cassette/cartridge player in use at the time.

The car was a six cylinder and Mrs L. says that at the time the lights were noted the vehicle seemed sluggish as if it didn't have its usual power. As the speedo was out of order she cannot quote figures. Mr L., however, when queried on this at the initial interview did not agree that the car was sluggish and felt that it was his wife's driving.

Mrs L. was aged seventy-one and her husband sixty-five at the time. When Mrs L. initially noticed the lights she drew her husband's attention to them but according to her he thought nothing of them and told her to hurry home.

At the time Mrs L. recalls that she was hoping that the lights wouldn't get in front of the car and was wondering what to do if they did so. She mentioned that they hadn't travelled at night since then, except around town because of the incident. She says that he wasn't so much frightened at the time as curious. In discussing it with her three months later she didn't know what to think of it when it happened.

Mr L. related that at first he had thought that it was the reflection of some of the dashboard lights of the car in the glass. To prove that it wasn't he turned off the normal dash lights and then used a piece of paper to cover all of the other lights. He said that he still wasn't really convinced that it was an unknown at the time but after a few days thinking about it and the various factors (the clock stopping etc.) he was now rather disturbed by the fact that he couldn't explain it.

Weatherwise it had been a clear, hot night.

Mr and Mrs L. were originally interviewed on the 18 February 1977, and subsequently by telephone and correspondence by myself. During our initial interview it was mentioned that the clock had stopped for seventeen to eighteen minutes and then later Mrs L. indicated forty-five minutes. Thus if the clock were seventeen to eighteen minutes slow this would indicate it stopped for some twenty to thirty kilometres (depending on their speed) which does not fit in with the locations where they said it had.

They say that the clock stopped about twenty-four kilometres out of Kingston on the Millicent side and was noted to have restarted after Millicent. Thus we can say that approximately it was stopped for a minimum of (107–24) kilometres to a maximum of (107+47) kilometres ... that is eighty-three to 154

kilometres with a likelihood of it being closer to about (107–24) kilometres. Their average speed for the trip Kingston to Mt Gambier is given as 2½ hrs which over 154 kilometres puts their average speed at sixty kph. Thus, one would expect that if the clock stopped after Kingston and restarted after Millicent that it could be slow by an amount of between 1 hour 24 minutes and 2 hours 34 minutes. Upping their estimated speed to 100 kph provides figures of 50 minutes to 1 hour 32 minutes.

No conjecture can be made on the speedo apart from the statement that the reporters relate that they noted the speedo jammed and that it had to be repaired later.

It should be noted that a car was observed together with the lights at one stage, with nothing abnormal happening to that car as far as they could see. This raises an immediate query as to the fact that the lights following them seemingly did not react to the presence of another car and vice versa.

Upon questioning Mrs L. on when the same lights were up in the sky, it was established that they were still visible through the back window. The car's back window is slanted at 45° from the boot to the roof and thus a large back window area is noticeable. She places the sky lights about a quarter the way up the sky from the horizon.

It should also be noted that at no time did either of them see the lights move from the one position at road level to the other position of being in the sky. Although there were comments that the lights came closer at times, no change in size or luminosity was observed.

Overall what emerged was a picture of a discontinuous observation where two lights were seen behind the car, then they were up in the sky and so on. The fact that other cars were not visibly concerned about the lights and the lack of visual evidence of 'closer approaches' seems to suggest a different picture to that of the couple.

On these points taken by themselves one might argue for a misidentification of some conventional stimuli such as vehicle headlights and stars, viewed through heat haze, including the speedo cable as just a coincidence and the clock stopping as some minor electrical fault.

In this event we are lead to conclude that the event as 'perceived' by the two people involved and the event as re-constructed after an investigation differ, and that we must arrive at a very much different interpretation than they did. Their involvement led them to say that they were followed by something and considered it a UFO, yet based on the same basic data I arrived at a different conclusion that the event was really a 'non-event', purely a set of co-incidences, bad perception, and a willingness to believe their interpretation as the only possible one. Yet the duration involved should have provided an answer if they had logically analysed the situation. They did not do this, and the possible thought of extraterrestrials played on the mind until this became their only offer of a solution. Bear in mind that this is a typical close

encounter-type report, which leads you to ask how many more are misperceptions?

The Tayene event is one where a certain side effect — namely a high pitched whistle — was heard on the car radio.

It was raining with mist about as a lady waited in her car to pick up a relative who was arriving by bus, late on the afternoon of 22 September. She heard on the car radio that the time was 5.20 p.m. Suddenly the whole area around her lit up with a bright light which shone into the car. At the same time the radio developed a very high-pitched whistle. She leaned over to turn off the radio when she saw, on an adjacent hillside, an unusual object approaching her.

It was moving slowly and appeared to be fifteen to twenty metres up and dropping towards the road. She panicked, started the car and reversed up the road. The object maintained its approach and came to within an estimated twenty to thirty metres away at fence height. The radio was still letting out the piercing whistle. After she had backed up the road she stuck the car into the side of the road, and was unable to move, which was a good job for there was a steep cliff to the rear of the car at this point.

The object became stationary for a while, then moved off and was lost to view in the mist. The entire episode lasted for some three to four minutes. The lady jumped from the car and ran up the road to her nearby house. On her arriving home her son and husband went back to fetch the car but found nothing unusual except that the front bonnet was exceptionally clean compared to the rest of the car.

The radio which had been working perfectly before the event has suffered from distortion ever since.

The most puzzling thing to me about this report is that the only effect was on the radio, and that the car engine performed quite normally. In other cases the car engine usually is the one to play up while the rest of the electrical system continues to work.

While in Tasmania in 1975 I visited the locality where the event was said to have occurred and ran through the sequence of events as described. The location is set on a mountain road travelled mainly by large log trucks with no houses around. On a fine day there is a good view in most directions, but on the day in question it was raining with mist on the hills. The report itself was very straight forward. The lady was listening to the car radio, the area around her lit up with a bright light and the radio then developed a very high-pitched whistle. As she backed the car up the road it caught in the mud and she was stuck. Her husband and son recovered the car and noted no mechanical or electrical abnormality, although the radio was said to suffer from distortion ever since. I was unable to offer any rational explanation at the time of the event but it was a pity there was only one reporter.

The April 1966 incident at Bourkes Flat in Victoria leaves another physically inexplicable incident. Mr Ron S. of Maryborough said he was driving along the Bendigo–St Arnaud road when the headlights of his car suddenly diverted to the right for no apparent reason. As this occurred he saw an ice cream cone shape in a nearby paddock which rose from the ground and disappeared. On reaching Wycheproof he had his lights checked and they were found to be in perfect order. Later Mr S. inspected the area of the paddock in which he had seen the cone and found a circular depression in the ground about 1.3 metres in diameter and fifteen centimetres deep in the ploughed earth.

Earlier I have described the Kadina, Frankston, Murray Bridge and Kalyan reports, so I will briefly outline the other three before we examine group (*b*).
Boyup Brook On 13 October 1967, a man was driving alone at about 9.30 p.m. when he became aware of the approach of a lighted object in the air. The car was travelling at 100 kph but almost immediately 'stopped dead' and all electrical systems went out. There was no feeling of deceleration at all.

Looking up he saw an iridescent blue oval shape, some ten metres across and thirty metres away. There was a tube of light extending from it to the car. After five minutes or so the tube of light switched off, the object left and he was travelling at 100 kph with no feeling of acceleration with all systems working again. There was no noise at any stage.
Yatala Vale Road A young lady was driving alone on 22 April 1977 at 11.45 p.m. She noticed a bright light in the sky in front of the car, which seemed to be approaching. Suddenly the engine, lights and radio went off for an estimated four seconds as the light appeared to pass over the car.
Sandfly A bright red light three metres off a road and two hundred metres distant was noticed behind a car. The car lost power for fifteen to twenty seconds and had to be clutch started. The light by then had disappeared. Later on, the car did the same thing again but this time there was no light visible.

Let's take a look for any patterns in these observations.

I think the first pattern which makes itself evident is that the incidents described all occurred at night, when it was dark, in country localities and in six out of seven cases only one person was present. The class is divisible into three subclasses:
(*a*) Kalyan, Yatala Vale Road, Sandfly — all short duration, short term stoppages; (*b*) Murray Bridge, and Kadina — engine, lights failure and unable to get the car started while the object was there; and (*c*) Boyup Brook and Frankston where control was exerted over the vehicle whilst still going at speed.

Let's explore subclass (*a*) first. We have seen that the Kalyan event contains interpretation based on an interview with the witness which is different from what he says happened to him at the time, but which is in better accord with the basic data points than his. This is that the light was at least 300 metres distant and paralleling the truck. This makes the truck failure more likely to

have been the result of something which the driver did in reacting to what he took to be a light passing over the truck. The truck's battery was found to be flat next day, highly suggestive of this being the cause of the electrical, short-term failure. Note, though, that the engine and lights died; although the truck was rolling the witness said the oil and ignition lights didn't come on, as they would in a normal stall condition.

I would postulate that something of this nature also happened in the other two short-term cases. In the former, Yatala Vale Road, the oil and ignition lights reportedly came on as all electrical systems went off. The observation of what to the reporter is an unusual light may, as in the case of Kalyan, be coincidental or misperception of a planet or aircraft. After all, many motorists have reported being followed by the planets Venus and Jupiter; if any of these had had electrical faults at that time they also would have probably reported a car stop. One should also bear in mind that these events do not seem to happen during daylight with traffic around. This in itself should have told us there was something peculiar about the time distribution that was important.

If there is a simple natural explanation for cases such as Mt Gambier then I do not see that we should be invoking the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

Subclasses (*b*) and (*c*) are a different kettle of fish entirely. In subclass (*b*) Murray Bridge and Kadina, a clearly defined object reportedly remained motionless, forty-five metres away from the car which couldn't be started, whilst at Boyup Brook and Frankston the whole vehicle was 'taken over' out of the hands of the driver.

Unfortunately, or perhaps not, there was only one person involved in each case. This might be a clue to an explanation.

On first inspection one can see that if the events occurred as described then they are of something certainly beyond our present comprehension. I have personally been involved in in-depth investigation into three out of the four and it would appear on the surface in all cases that the witnesses were average persons in good health. However, it strikes me as peculiar that no permanent physical evidence remains to prove the event really happened, such as the car partially melting, breaking down completely, requiring a tow truck to rescue it, etc. In at least one case — Murray Bridge — the witness was a mechanic and had the car checked over next day but could find nothing to account for the incident, and in the other three the vehicle performed normally both before and after. You will recall that the chap who said his headlights bent to the right also had the car checked and found no reason for the lights to have behaved that way. To me, this suggests that either the effect involved is temporary or that the cause is nonphysical. I'll elaborate on just which of these two hypotheses I believe seems to be true later.

I'd like to finish this section off by describing one physical check that can be made on a vehicle which could help us to decide whether physical residue effects are left, and this is the 'magnetic signature test'.

When a piece of ordinary low carbon content steel is stressed beyond the elastic limit of the material, it becomes fixed to an extent, and will retain a permanent imprint pattern of the earth's magnetic field at the time that the material was produced.

Such is the case with sheet metal used in cars. The magnetic pattern in individual external door panels, the hood and the roof ordinarily remain constant for the duration of the yearly model of the car, as the same discs are used to make the part of each car for that year.

On the day the parts are manufactured they have a distinct magnetic pattern inbuilt which will not be changed by day-to-day use of the vehicle. A change will occur only if the vehicle is exposed to an intense magnetic field. Magnetic fields strong enough to do this do not occur naturally.

So take a car of a person who says they were stopped by a UFO. Place the car so that it is facing magnetic north and measure the magnetic field on the car in forty to fifty distinct places with a compass. Measure the direction of the compass' needle in such places as above the door locks, below the windscreen wipers, on the bonnet, etc. Record the angle between magnetic north and the direction in which the north point of the needle points. Thus you record the magnetic alignment of these points at that time.

Locate two or three identical vehicles — same make, model and year perhaps to be found in a public car park or used car lot — and do the same test to the same forty to fifty places. These will be used for reference vehicles. Compare the results. If the magnetic signature of the vehicle which has supposedly been exposed to a UFO is different and the reference cars are the same, then one might conclude that here is physical evidence. One would be tempted to say that the UFO phenomenon involves magnetic fields. Of course, a negative response might well show that either the event never happened or that the event happened and that UFOs do not involve magnetic fields!

In summary, until recently we have come up against a problem of having to rely on the visual observations of a single individual with no supporting evidence. There is now a physical test we can apply which should be able to tell us something about the apparent interaction between vehicles and the UFO phenomenon.

Angel hair

From time to time white, web-like threads are reported falling from the skies and mysteriously disintegrating within minutes of reaching the ground. Some of the accounts make mention of the material being discharged from UFOs while others say it falls from clear skies.

Like so many other aspects of the UFO phenomena an air of mystery has remained where some say the material is really only spiders' web, whilst others

steadfastly maintain that the threads are a residue of the propulsion system of extraterrestrial spaceships. Who is right?

As part of my research for this book I collected together reports of angel hair. I managed to gather fifty-three accounts from all over the world, including the USA, France, Belgium, Italy, Japan and New Zealand. Out of these, fourteen instances were from within Australia. An inspection of the Australian accounts revealed that only three out of the fourteen could be associated directly with UFOs.

Difficulty was had in tracing data on many of the reported events and in fact it turned out that the more one found out about a particular case the more likely it was that the explanation was spiders. It was only in the more decidedly nebulous cases that you could still invoke other explanations.

It would seem that almost certainly all the South Australian cases of 1968 were in fact spiders' web, as were Grace Plains and Gundagai. I managed to locate the original Gundagai colour slide which shows an entire paddock covered in material. Quite unbelievable to view, and yet the man who took the picture said that spiders were found throughout the material.

During the course of gathering details, I spoke to and corresponded with people in South Australia who had witnessed 'web falls'. All described an off-white material which came in pieces of varying lengths, and when felt had the same texture as spiders' web. Close examination revealed literally millions of tiny spiders imbedded in the web.

The threads would remain only a little while before seemingly disintegrating or disappearing. Observers would be left puzzled as to where it all had gone, yet it was definitely spider caused.

So, after locating South Australian cases and finding them to be spiders' webs, I looked at the description of overseas reports. They seemed identical. However, a much fuller investigation would be needed to confirm this but there is no reason to suggest that reports from local sources should be so misrepresentative that all others were UFOs.

The UFOs reportedly associated with the falls are merely lights in the sky, not defined metallic discs, and the suggestion that they are merely sunlit concentrators of web high in the sky must be regarded as just as credible as the more exotic interpretations previously placed on them. Investigations need to be in-depth if we are ever to be asked to believe anything else.

Photographic evidence

'The camera never lies'. In the field of UFOs we must say, 'The camera never lies but watch out for the person behind the viewfinder'.

Photographic data is usually considered reliable in most fields but when connected with the UFO phenomena we should really believe all photographs to be hoaxes unless proving them otherwise.

This may seem a very hard line to take but if you'd ever taken the trouble to take a look at some of the pictures reportedly showing UFOs you'd agree with that last statement one hundred percent. This is why I do not regard photographic evidence as good evidence. It is just too easy to fake or be of misinterpreted phenomena.

My introduction to photographs came in June 1969 when the British Broadcasting Corporation offered $5000 for an alleged genuine picture of an object over Maddington, in Perth, Western Australia. Three young men claimed to have photographed an object flying over them and the picture, showing an ovoid, black blob against apparent cloud cover was printed in a local paper and also shown on television, thus receiving a fairly wide coverage. Following this came the BBC offer. The pressure of the money became too much for the three young men and they admitted that the picture was a phoney. It was two-gallon drum lids stuck together with masking tape and with two icecream bowls sprayed with metallic paint and marked with black spots.

Although this particular picture was quickly revealed as a hoax, others are not and it may be years before the truth is known.

Later I came across one of these latent types, which involved merely a blob of light near the moon and was of a lens reflection.

After really becoming interested in UFOs I collected data on fifty-two Australian and New Zealand films and photos, including ten movies. An examination of these showed little of scientific value could be learnt from them at all.

Ideally we can set up criteria which need to be met before a photograph or set of photographs can be accepted as possibly genuine. These necessary points are:

a. There should be more than one shot. A series of still pictures or a movie sequence, with known reference points taken from slightly different angles, gives a possible chance to use stereoscopy to deduce the size and distance of the object.

b. There should be reference points such as trees or buildings for one cannot gain very much from mere sky background. These same reference points should also be available to the investigators.

c. Independent witnesses to the taking, and processing of the film would be of great value.

d. If the above three criteria were met a fourth could be that the film be escorted through the processing procedure to ensure that there is no possible charge of tampering with the negatives in any way.

Using the above criteria the number of photographs in existence can be very quickly reduced from over a thousand to just a handful.

Until recently we only had standard techniques for examining pictures to test for hoax. We would enlarge a film, look for models, strings, examine the

negative for tampering, and check the picture against the witness' account. However, there is now a technique available which can be used to decide fairly accurately whether a picture is a hoax, natural object or reflection, and this is computer enhancement.

I first came across this technique in a magazine where a photo of a cloud-like object said to be a UFO was found to be merely a cloud. An ideal opportunity to test out the method came when a photograph taken near Alice Springs was submitted to us.

It was taken in December 1974 when travellers stopped near Alice Springs to shoot a photograph of the deserted countryside. Picture taken, they duly moved on their way. Some time later a friend of the family involved was looking at the snap when they asked what the image in the sky was. It didn't look Eke a balloon, a bird, plane or any normal thing, so they referred it to us for analysis.

Remember, when they had taken the picture they had not seen anything and didn't even know the photograph showed anything unusual until their attention was drawn to it later.

The negative was obtained and enlargements of the picture showed an apparent square/triangular image which seemed, according to the shadows, to be three dimensional. However, this didn't help resolve the identification of the object and so the photo was sent over to an organisation in the USA known as Ground Saucer Watch Inc.

Their excellent report arrived back very shortly together with polaroid shots of the image taken from their camera monitoring device after computer enhancement. The report told that they had used the computer to enhance the shot and that the following comments were noted:

a. The image was very small in physical size.
b. The image was close to the camera.
c. The image was extremely blurred caused by camera motion and image motion.
d. The true shape had been revealed by the technique.
e. The image was ascending away from the camera at a 45 angle.

Their conclusion – the picture showed a bird! The polaroid consol display pictures clearly agreed with this conclusion.

The actual methods used to determine the truth about an image are the same as used by NASA to clear the shots taken of Mars and Jupiter on space shots. The computer looks at the picture and averages out what it considers to be the best definition for each small area (maybe thousands of areas per picture), then reconstitutes the whole picture, using the best value of colour for each small area, into the final shot. In this way a clearly-defined image is visible.

As you can see it is a very useful tool, but it still needs improvement and is still in the end subject to a subjective human evaluation. I read that Ground Saucer Watch Inc., after looking at over 900 UFO shots, had reduced the number it considered worthy of further study to thirty.

It is often said that it is surprising that more photographs do not exist, considering the number of cameras around today. The argument goes that there are so many people on holidays, news teams and so forth out and about at any one time that more UFOS should be snapped. I think it is forgotten that most UFOS are reportedly seen at night and that the number of people with other than simplistic instant type cameras would be much less than the sum total around. On top of this how many of you carry a camera round wherever you go? Not many, I'll bet. So the average camera is next to useless at night even if you had one in your hand at the time of the encounter.

Very few news teams scan the skies all the time and the recent New Zealand films are an exception rather than the rule. However it should be noted that the second film taken by a New Zealand film crew turned out to be a film of the planet Venus in the early morning sky, and that the first one taken by a New Zealand cameraman under hire by the Australian Channel 0–10 network is still under dispute as to what it shows.

All in all photographic evidence is nowhere near as good as it could be.

Radar evidence

Hold on, you say. You have dispelled photographs as a good source of information about UFOs. What about all the radar sightings! My answer to this must be that there are the same old problems with radar that there are with photographs — the human factor. Good as a medium for gathering information about range, size and movement as radar is, this information still has to be interpreted by a human being and this is where errors can occur.

Unfortunately for those interested in UFOs, radar can pick up aircraft, birds, insects, precipitation, temperature gradients, smoke, lightning, ionised air, kites and balloons. Also as the equipment is very complex we have to throw in the possibility of equipment malfunction.

Let us recall a recent series of events which occurred in New Zealand where radar picked up unusual targets over both the North and the South Islands.

Targets 'appeared' and 'disappeared', apparently travelling kilometres in seconds. Stationary echoes were picked up on a radar system supposedly capable of only picking up moving objects. Pilots asked to look in the direction of certain objects seen on radar, saw nothing abnormal. A RNZAF aircraft checking targets visible to ground radar encountered nothing except turbulent air when at the location of some of the targets.

Unfortunately all this 'hard' data was far from producing a clear picture of a genuine UFO event.

Examination of many of the global radar reports of the past shows misunderstanding of the equipment's capabilities, or the controller's ability to comprehend and accurately report their observations. Due to these problems there would appear to be little that radar cases alone can add to our search for the cause of the phenomena.

4. UFO ‘NESTS’ AND ALL THAT

One of the most provocative and most likely aspects of the phenomena to provide ‘ proof in most people’s minds has been the finding of areas of ground supposedly affected by the presence of a UFO.

If there were anything which could ever be said to be able to be believable, it is the ‘nests’ or markings which are found from time to time all over the world. In a recent (1976) compilation of such global reports, Ted Bloecher of the USA compiled a list of some 1000 such reports, and they were only the ones reported widely enough to come into his hands. The question which must be asked is that with all these ‘landings’, why hasn’t one been declared genuine by science?

As with car effect cases, in the past it has largely been the mass media’s coverage of seemingly spectacular events which has left the impression in people’s minds that UFOs land and leave evidence. What is the truth?

We can divide the locations where our mystery markings appear into paddocks and lawns/grass reserves. We will find that this division often provides a clue to the cause.

Most markings on lawns (that is, those not covered by mundane causes, such as someone pouring petrol and burning a circle as has been known), upon visual inspection, can be seen to be a scattering (often in perfect circles or regular geometric arcs) of what seems to be a carbon-like deposit with hundreds of small grey-black specks visible on the blades of grass.

Specific examples will help us describe these types of marks, how they are discovered and what people think of them:

- A perfect 4-metre diameter circle appeared on a lawn at Tumbulgun, NSW, on 23 February 1969. It was marked by a grey sooty substance.
- A dark patch of grass was found, some 2–2.75 metres across, on a lawn at Camden, NSW, in 1972.
- One of the lead stories in an Adelaide paper in October 1972 concerned a couple who had heard a ‘buzzing noise’ during the night and had then found four rings on the back lawn. Each had a shiny surface and a grass rim. The rings were not circular, and appeared greener than their surroundings. The interior of the lawn marks were the same as outside. Miriads of tiny black dots were visible on the clover in the rings but not elsewhere on the lawn. Toadstools had grown on the lawn in previous months.

Investigations however revealed that the ‘noise’ itself had been a mere journalistic embellishment.

- In early 1978 a lady telephoned us and later that day we made a personal inspection of an arc of grey-black spots which had appeared on a lawn in Klemzig, Adelaide. The spots were later removed by mowing. During the night of discovery an ‘unusual’ light shining through her bedroom curtains had been noted by the lady.
- After a 6-metre ‘burnt’ grass area flattened in an anti-clockwise direction was found on a factory grass reserve in an Adelaide suburb in April

1978, an Adelaide paper headlined its account ‘Mystery Marking by UFOs’.

Not one of the people involved in the above accounts had any idea of what actually caused the markings they found, and reported the marks to either the news media or to UFO research organisations. In three cases, the finders or the media attributed the marks to abnormal causes and this seems to be the general feature of the majority of cases reported throughout both Australia and the world.

However, the cause of these types of markings does not require falling back on the extraterrestrial hypothesis, or ETH, but to GON (good old nature). An organism known as slime mould is responsible. Slime mould is the name given to a unique group of organisms whose origin and relationships have not been totally agreed upon. They are usually associated with fungi, possessing fungal characteristics, but differ in certain structural features. They are found in moist woods, logs, sawdust, or on other organic matter. Following periods of rainy weather, they occur on the leaves of grasses or other plants on lawns.

Positive identification was made in the October 1972 case by the CSIRO and in the two 1978 cases by the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Any associated phenomenon, unusual noises, unusual light in bedroom etc., has not been shown to have any abnormal cause either upon adequate investigation.

So, when you come across reported lawn markings, check the characteristics closely. Compare them to that which I have just described; ascertain if there has been any positive unusual associated phenomenon; and, if all things indicate it, accept that the marks are just another aspect of nature, which we know little about.

Paddocks

The other locality where marks are discovered are paddocks. Wheat, oats, natural grass, thistles and other plants and crops have all had their share of unusual occurrences, apparently (until now) with no real explanation. Here we will distinguish several sub-categories of markings:

(*a*) Doughnut-shaped rings of bare/lush growth.

(*b*) Bare oval or circular patches of earth.

(*c*) Swirled or depressed crops.

Firstly, what is reported in doughnuts? Here are four examples:

1. In July 1972 we were called to Clare, South Australia, to inspect three roughly circular rings of dirt. They were located among rich green grass which was very distinct because they were ‘bare’ growth and visible from a distance. The owners of the property involved firmly stated that nothing on their farm could have artificially caused them. Could they have been caused by UFOs? Each was doughnut-shaped, with diameter approximately 1.32 metres to 1.96 metres, with a dead band twenty to forty centimetres across.

2. A marking at Navarre in Victoria, received widespread media attention in September 1972 on television and in the press. Two rings twenty-three

metres and twenty-six metres in diameter, with a 0.7-metre band of bare earth at their circumference, were found. Within and without the circles the grass grew normally. Soil samples showed a white material in the soil taken from the bare patch but the soil surrounding and immediately adjoining the bare places was the same soil as in any other part of the paddocks.

3. Nurrabiel, Victoria, was the scene of a 0.5-metre-band, 27-metre circumference marking found on bare ground in May 1973. After a month vivid green grass had grown in its place.

4. Rings of 10.6-metre diameter and 1.3-metre width were discovered at Willow Tree, NSW, in September 1973 and investigated by our New South Wales counterpart.

Well, are they caused by UFOs as many people believe? The answer is a firm no; good old nature prevails again. Whenever scientific tests have been conducted on soil samples taken from these rings, the answer has always been fungi.

The fungi are a large group of plants and are characterised by two important features: they are non-green plants devoid of chlorophyll and the plant body is characteristically composed of branching and threadlike structures termed hyphae. Fungi thrive in any environment that provides proper conditions for growth. They thrive in soil, in leaves and in dead remains of plants and other organic materials, such as foods and leather. The markings they cause are found mainly in paddocks but can also occur on lawns. The fruiting bodies of the gill and other fleshy fungi grow in lawns and paddocks and can either produce single or circular colonies of mushrooms and toadstools. These rings of fruiting bodies have been called ‘fairy rings’; legend has it that one can hear fairies singing if one stands in the middle of such a ring.

The perennial mycelium (the collective interlacing tangle) of the fungus begins growth in the centre of the ring to be, and then spreads outwards (causing the dead perimeter ring). Older myceliums in the inside of the ring die when the organic material in the soil has all been used. After the soils regenerate due to water action, fertilisers etc., you have a dead band with a once more healthy centre, and a healthy outside. Thus the ring varies in diameter year by year if the conditions are right.

The diameter of such rings varies with age and rate of growth. Studies of rings in Colorado, USA, quote one species which was fifty-six metres across and an estimated 250 years old.

So, we started off with the ETH in mind and ended up with GON again. Clues to watch out for in fungi-caused rings are:

a. A bare band of soil with seemingly normal growth inside and out.
b. The presence of white strands in the soil (mycelium).
c. The finding of mushrooms/toadstools in association with the mark.
d. No visual associated UFO event.
e. Super lush growth of grass.

If in doubt take soil samples from both the band, inside and outside of the mark, and get either the State or Federal departments of agriculture, the Botanic Gardens or the CSIRO to analyse the material for you. It will be free of charge.

An important item to note is that, notwithstanding the above, some rings which are called 'barren rings' have been observed in Canada growing at the rate of twenty to thirty centimetres a year, but having no trace of fungus in the soil. It was first thought that bacteria were responsible but further tests were inconclusive.

Bare earth circles

Up to now we have been successful in showing that certain types of marks previously thought to be UFO-caused do in fact have natural causes. Well, what about that sub-category of bare earth circles? A classic example in my opinion would be the finding of a 2.4-metre circle in the middle of a wheat paddock near Wokuma, South Australia, in December 1973.

Members of UFO Research (SA) Inc. attended the scene and reported that the mark, estimated to be less than two months old, consisted of a bare depression in the soil, almost circular in shape, surrounded by flattened wheat lying in an anti-clockwise direction. No magnetic anomaly was detected, and soil analysis revealed no difference between inside and outside the mark. There were no abnormal radiations, nor heat effects. Animal droppings were in abundance on the surface, however.

The farmer, whose property the mark was on, was baffled; the surrounding wheat was a metre high, yet here was an area completely stripped of wheat and the soil dug out in a circular fashion. Our investigators first contacted the South Australia Museum who suggested the possibility of an animal caught in a trap. The CSIRO suggested the strong possibility of a kangaroo. When resting, animals have been observed to pivot themselves and swivel around a few times before settling down. The RAAF and the police forensic squad were contacted but replied they had no explanations in mind. The CSIRO explanation fits the facts best, but we do not know for sure.

However, there do exist other markings of this type for which we do not have even a possible answer at the moment, and I will briefly describe a couple below.

A 2.2-metre bare and doughnut-shaped ring with a 45-centimetre wide, 10-centimetre deep trough on its perimeter, turned up in a wheat field in December 1971 near Tooligie Hill, South Australia. Soil samples revealed nothing abnormal about it. The wheat had been swirled anti-clockwise around the mark itself. Neighbours described seeing a red ball of light descending into the paddock the night before it was found. Then Port Neill became the location of a 4.3-metre mark with a circular hollow where soil had apparently been removed, and a hard rim had formed. This was in March 1977. Soil

samples revealed no cause, radiation or heat.

At this stage I would like to remind you that, only in the case of Tooligie Hill, has there been any reported associated visual UFO report, in Australian cases, which could remotely link these kind of marks to the UFO phenomenon. There could still yet be a GON cause.

Swirled/depressed crops

Our look at mysterious markings continues with what is possibly the least explainable to date. This phenomenon is one where crops have been swirled or depressed. Obviously here you cannot talk about fungus or slime mould and have to involve some kind of force.

Through the years we have had some pretty fine examples of this type of marking in Australia. Here are a few:

1. In May 1966 at Corndale, NSW, an oval-shaped depression about thirty centimetres deep and six metres by five metres was found in grass on a property.

2. Several circular depressions were found in an oat crop at Bordertown, SA, in December 1973. My own inspection showed they ranged from 2.5 to five metres across and were of different ages. Oats had been swirled anti-clockwise. Note this re-occurrence of the same direction of swirling. It seems a constant feature of Australian reports. The State police forensic squad attended but have not been able to offer any explanation. However, ball lightning and a wind storm were put forward as possibilities by some.

3. Narrogin, WA, was the scene of a publicised finding of a depression in an oat crop. Oats outside the area were 1.4 metres tall but inside only eighteen centimetres, depressed in a south-southeastern direction. No holes or indentation were found. The whole area was an approximate rectangular shape sixteen metres by eight metres with two corner pieces of 7-metre radius not flattened. Soil analysis revealed no cause. September 1975.

UFOs

We have so far covered markings of various types and found there certainly are conventional GON explanations for a great many of them. Are there any that have been directly related to UFOs, investigated and still seem unknown? Yes, but only a very few meet these criteria. There have been two such internationally publicised events. My personal research, however, suggests one to remain unknown, but that the other was probably a fungus ring.

Firstly, the one I accept on present data — with the reservation that I didn't personally investigate the case:

A Mr George Pedley of Euramo, near Tully in Queensland, was driving along on a tractor when he was startled to see a blue grey saucer with no portholes, antenna, or signs of life, rise from a lagoon area, making a hissing

sound. It rose vertically at speed, slowed down at a height of twenty metres, then left to the south-west. Inspection of the lagoon revealed a circle of dead reeds on the surface of the water, swirled in a clockwise direction and of ten metres diameter.

The reeds were bent below the water level and swirled as if subjected to a rotating force. Mr Pedley said, 'When I passed the hole the previous evening, it was smothered in grass-like reeds protruding up to three feet above the surface. The water hole is from four to five feet deep'.

Inspection by Mr Alf MacDonald, a stock route inspector, who dived into the lagoon, revealed that 'some force has sucked the roots up cleanly into the floating 'nest'. First ruled out as explanations were reed-eating grubs which, although causing water grasses to collapse, leave roots and remnants on the lagoon bed. The RAAF suggested a whirlwind of some kind, but inspection of the weather details failed to support this conclusion. No abnormal radiation was found in the reeds. No satisfactory answer has come to light to date.

If any UFO researcher was to be asked to name the most impressive physical-trace case in the world, the one that would certainly qualify would be the Delphos, Kansas, case.

On 2 November 1971, a sixteen-year-old boy reported observing at close range a very unusual object, some three metres diameter, and three metres high, hovering sixty centimetres above the ground in amongst some trees, on his father's property. After a few minutes the object left and later the family discovered a glowing, phosphorescent, ring-shaped area on the ground which was dry, despite recent rain.

The mark was subsequently observed by the local papers, and police who took soil samples and photos. Investigations by major American groups supported the event as a good physical-trace case.

However, unable to see the mark in person due to distance and time I decided to study all the available documentation about it. Doubt was cast on the visual observations which contain internal discrepancies and secondly the physical nature of the mark.

Jacques Vallee in his book *UFOs — The Psychic Solution* reveals that samples of soil contained a white substance which was found to be an organism between a bacteria and a fungus. It is often found together with a fungus of the order of Bacidiomycepes which may fluoresce under certain conditions. Fungi are also water-resistant. So, the mark would seem to have been a fungus.

5. THE YEAR OF THE REVELATION

‘*Mehr Licht*!’ (‘*More light*!’)

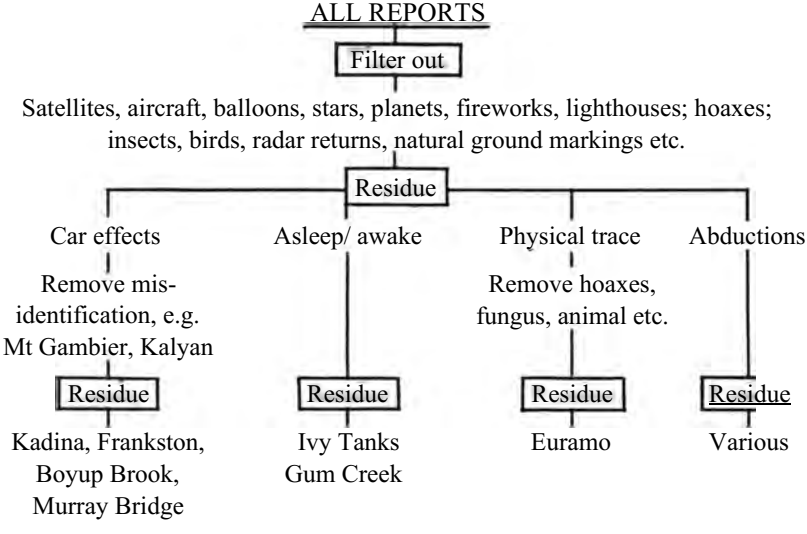
Last words attributed to Johann Wolfgang Goethe

We have explored many of the branching avenues of the UFO phenomena and have a small residue of events left unexplained.

We will now examine these in the light of an hypothesis which I have recently arrived at, coming as it does after ten years of personal investigation. I wish to stress that this is just a theory and is presented against a background of personal involvement in checking the facts available here in Australia.

I reserve the right to alter its form if future information provides different data. Even so, it is a serious attempt to steer UFO researchers along a new avenue of attack on the UFO enigma and I suggest that this hypothesis does in fact explain most, if not all, of the previously inexplicable factors. I believe it deserves study, and should be critically examined as would any new hypothesis in any field of endeavour.

Here, it is probably appropriate if we chart how we have filtered out the particular test cases I have used in this book:



We are now ready to explore a known psychological phenomenon which appears capable of explaining these, our residue data. Strong words, you say. What is this human occurrence?

I think that most people would have had a feeling of recognition accompanying the perception of a scene or event which in fact has not previously been encountered by them before. We usually call this déjà vu. Normal healthy people experience it to a degree. Personally I can recall such an event happening on only about two occasions. However, it is more often reported by epileptics and psychiatric patients. This 'feeling', although sometimes it can be seen to be an almost certainty that you have experienced the event or place before, may be momentary or it may persist long enough to

draw the attention of someone else by saying, 'I've been here before. I know what is behind that door', or 'I know what you are about to say next'.

Another phenomenon which is rarely talked about, unless you specifically query someone about it, is their experiences with imagery, especially when about to fall asleep or wake up.

Before we proceed any further: What do you know about sleep? If you imagine it is simply a matter of closing your eyes for eight hours a night then you might be in for a shock, as sleep is not the oblivion you think it is.

Imagine you are falling asleep; you are relaxed and lying in bed. After a few moments you enter the region of consciousness where imagery may surface. If you were spoken to, aroused and told to wake up you might even deny that you have been asleep. If left as you were, you would fall asleep even deeper. Several minutes later your body functions would start to slow down. This would affect your heartbeat, blood pressure and body temperature. To an outside person watching you, you would be judged to be sound asleep. Waking you up from this stage would be difficult, for it is at this level that sleep-walking and sleep-talking occur.

At approximately ninety to 120 minute intervals, we would note that your heart rate varied, that your body temperature rose and that your blood pressure would vary. This is because you have surfaced a little from the deepest sleep to a stage which is called REM (rapid eye movement) or paradoxical (so called because an EEG would show similar activity to wakeful brain patterns) sleep. Your eyeballs would be moving around, and you would be dreaming.

So, throughout the night you oscillate between deep and REM sleep, until you eventually wake up in the morning — that is, unless you are disturbed during the night which might bring you either to complete wakefulness or into the sleep/awake interface period where you might experience imagery.

I can recall instances of hearing unusual noises, or seeing purple 'blobs' when half asleep, which really didn't exist except inside my brain. Speaking about this type of experience to others brought out a fair few instances of similar imagery. A person of my acquaintance recalled 'seeing' a bar of light whilst falling asleep, whilst another reported a similar thing whilst awakening. Still another lady told me of scenes of people and animals which had been noticed by her.

I found a general reluctance to talk about 'events' of this sort, almost as if it were something which people found distasteful, as if they were afraid of being looked upon as a 'nut'.

I wondered whether certain UFO cases might not have similarities to images of this nature. What type of 'imagery' are we talking about?

It seems psychologists have long been aware of self-generated images within the human mind. These images are not created in the usual manner in which we perceive the surrounding world. Normal perception involves a process of the

transmission of energy through our eyes, to our brain where it is perceived. These images are not transmitted into the brain via our eyes, ears, or skin, yet are encounterable by just the class of people whom we are talking about who report UFOs — that is, normal, healthy people in the period between sleep and wakefulness. The intermediate period between wake and sleep is termed hypnagogic and, between sleep and wake, hypnopompic.

Hypnopompic imagery was so named by Alfred Maury in 1848. Maury perceived 'faces' in the dark. Both types of imagery most often occur with the eyes closed, but may also occur in a darkened environment with the eyes open.

This sort of imagery content is visual or auditory in the main, but may also include sensations of heat or cold, smell or touch. They may be reproductions of the events of the day or strange, foreign, or bizarre images which can at times be pleasing or frightening.

Little control seems to be able to be had over their appearance, departure or content, and thus a person experiencing them could be quite frightened at the sudden perception of such an event. The imagery can be confused with reality, especially the non-visual kind. One of the most basic auditory images would be that of 'hearing' one's name being called, often bringing one to one's full senses. For example, have you ever been sleeping or dozing in bed of a morning waiting for someone to call you to get up for breakfast, when you hear them call? You obediently trot to the kitchen only to find the bacon and eggs only half finished and a puzzled look on the chef s face. Other such image events would include going to a room to run off that noisy radio which is already off when you get there, or leaving the bed because of hearing a very strange noise.

Visual images range from the simple (faces of unknown people in the dark) to integrated and complex scenes (say, a moving landscape). Objects seen can be 'strange' or noticed from an unusual angle with sometimes an unusual clarity of detail, with durations ranging from seconds to minutes. Persons experiencing these images comment on the unusual quality of colour and lighting, using such phrases as 'strange luminosity' and 'glow of the setting sun'. Both types of imagery may also include states where the image you have of your body or part thereof can appear to have shrunk or enlarged.

Surveys which have been done have lead to speculation that such imagery is experienced by all, but denied by many. The incidence of imagery amongst the population has been found to range from fifty to seventy per cent, with events occurring to a number either nightly or with regular experiences on at least half the nights.

Due to sometimes bizarre nature, it has been related to supernatural causes by certain individuals. Indeed, if an intense image were perceived — say, a skeleton in the bedroom — and a few days later there was a death in the family the percipient could well be forgiven for making the coincidence into a prewarning of death.

As an example of just how real these images have reported to have been, let us take a look at one event quoted by McKellar (1968) which lead the viewer to go to a psychologist as she honestly thought there was something wrong with her mind.

A young couple had a routine of the wife getting breakfast ready for her husband and then seeing him off to work. One morning she recalled getting out of bed, washing, dressing and then kissing her husband goodbye. At this point she 'woke up' to find her husband kissing her goodbye. She was still in bed and had been asleep all this time!

To the lady concerned her perception was reality — coloured, three dimensional, solid reality. Yet she had imaged all this. Fortunately the psychologist was able to place the event in the right context and explain that she wasn't going mad after all.

Although seemingly one and the same thing as hypnopompic images, there is also a phenomenon called 'false awakenings'. These are episodes where a person seems to wake up in bed, or elsewhere, in the normal way. It may then occur to them to doubt whether they are really awake and they may proceed to examine the environment hoping to prove this one way or the other. Sometimes they realise that what they are experiencing is only a 'dream', in which case a lucid dream (one in which the subject is aware of dreaming) may follow.

These 'false awakenings' may occur after both lucid and non-lucid dreams but seem more common among people who have frequent lucid dreams.

Going beyond this to what has been referred to as type 2 false awakenings by Green and McCreery (1975) we find one where the person appears to wake up normally and finds himself in bed. The surroundings may at first appear normal but then become unusual or uncanny and a 'funny atmosphere' sets in. Alternatively, they may awake immediately to a 'stressed' or 'stormy' feeling. In either case the person experiences fear and panic or a hallucination or apparitional effect. This may also be accompanied by a seeming paralysis of the body or an 'out of body' state.

To an outside observer a person undergoing any of these states would appear to be asleep, lying with eyes closed. Occasionally type 2 false awakenings are simply the sensation of waking, then really waking up. I have heard of cases where a person awoke, then awoke, then awoke!

We have seen that the boundary of sleep and wakefulness is not a simple line of consciousness we can draw. We are not merely either asleep or awake but can be fully awake, fully asleep, or in an in-between state where imagery may occur.

After reading the literature concerning imagery the following is a summary of the known facts. Images occur on the sleep/awake interface and not necessarily only when falling asleep/awakening once per night. Little control can be exercised over the content or form of the images which can be simple or

of complex form, including visualisation of people. There is an unusual quality of lighting or colour often noted, and it is estimated (from surveys) that a half to three-quarters of the population experiences some form of imagery. Percipients are healthy, normal individuals.

In the light of this, I would like to put forward the suggestion that in the Ivy Tanks entity report was a case where a woman heard a voice tell her to look out of the window, saw an object, described the unusual clarity of detail and the 'unusual colour' and the 'force field' (her words, not mine) was actually a hypnopompic image.

After looking at this case as a starting point, I researched the UFO literature and found quite a few other cases which showed some or all of the characteristics of imagery. Doubtless there are many more of these about which may come to the reader's mind after reading the above.

We'll take a look at a few further cases which I've picked out.

18 July 1967, *Boardman*, *USA 0130 hrs*

The Rev. A. DePolo was awakened by a very loud noise — 'the type you hear on television science fiction programmes'. He felt that a mental message was being conveyed to him. He went downstairs and in the driveway was a 152 centimetre tall figure wearing a luminous 'space suit'. The surrounding glow made the figure very distinct. He received another message. Looking up in the sky he saw that the sky was strangely illuminated. When he turned his eyes back to the driveway where the figure had been he saw a formless blob of light which faded and vanished. He returned to bed and 'fell asleep immediately'.

22 June 1972, *Logrono*, *Spain 0200 hrs*

A twenty-year-old student was in bed reading, when he suddenly perceived that the room seemed to grow brighter. He put his book down and saw an intensely powerful light beaming through the two leaves of his window. The window opened by itself and a luminous object entered at a height of two metres. It stopped. The light from it was very brilliant. He tried to sink into bed, terrified. A transistor radio which was switched on (although there was no radio station broadcasting then) emitted a high-pitched noise, which he taped with a recorder. The object put out a beam towards the radio and then the tape recorder. Finally it went straight towards the window and vanished. The student did not go to the window and look out as he was more concerned with getting a recording of the noise. Upon being questioned he said that the radio had visibly swayed when the beam was on it; however, 'not a single trace had been left by the passage of the object'.

No comment was made in the source as to whether or not the tape made had caught the noise. One presumes not or it would have been tendered as evidence.

15 October 1973, *Omro*, *USA 0100-0500 hrs*

The witness was awoken by a brief high-pitched sound and his room was lit up

with a bright, orange-red glow. Three humanoids 1200 to 152 centimetres tall were seen to materialise. They had bald heads, greyish-white wrinkled skin and rounded ears. They moved mechanically. The witness passed out, then came to on the floor, propped against a wall, unable to move. The entities were examining him with an oval object that showed the bones of his legs as it passed over them. He had a severe headache and passed out again. He awakened towards dawn on the floor. He found lights on in the bedroom and the bedsheets folded neatly back.

17 October 1973, *Pikesville*, *USA 0345 hrs*

A woman was awoken by the sound of an explosion. She heard a loud humming, walked out onto the front porch and saw a red, transparent, coloured object. On top was a bubble with a human figure standing up.

Ca. *February 1976*, *Hobart*, *Tasmania 2300 hrs*

A man and his wife had gone to bed, and the wife had already fallen asleep. The man put out the light and was about to settle down into bed when he saw the doorway (the door closed) appear to get darker. Three figures came through the closed door. One put his hand on the man's leg, which went 'dead'. One then tried to put a bag over the man's legs under the bedclothes. He called out to his wife, then threw a cigarette lighter, cigarettes and ash tray towards her to wake her up. She started to put on the tight, whereupon the figures stepped over the bed and through the window which seemed to burst open in an orange glow. By the time she looked there was nothing there. The items thrown at her were found by her bed.

25 November 1978, *Sanford*, *Tasmania 2350 hrs*

A woman was awoken by the barking of her dog and looked out of the window. She noticed a 'doorway' of white tight out on their front driveway. The door was estimated as nine to twelve metres high and two to three metres wide. It was dark everywhere else due to the time of night. Through, and only through, the door she could see the drive as if it were lit up by daylight, as though she were in fact looking through a door onto her drive during the day. When a golden glow started to spread from the door, she became frightened. The entire event lasted an estimated two to three minutes, after which both the glow and the door went out instantly. There was nothing visible but darkness. She went out to check her baby. No traces were found upon inspection.

We note throughout these cases that there is a re-occurrence of the same features — that is, vivid illumination, strange illumination, and figures appearing and disappearing other than by normal means.

A further supporting feature which readily suggests that our reporters are never actually awake during the event is the often described inability to move or speak. Note that in the Omro case the reporter recalled coming to propped against a wall. In a 1964 case a woman reported wanting to speak to the entity but the words wouldn't form. This is highly reminiscent of the 'paralysis'

which occurs due to the lack of muscle tone which prevents a dreaming person from acting out the dreams and walking and talking (apart from the few people susceptible to sleep-walking and –talking).

Yet another similarity in three of these cases is that the reporter recalls falling asleep almost immediately afterwards. One would instead expect the person to be highly excited or frightened by the event. Yet, in their own words, they fell asleep immediately. I suggest they were asleep all the time, merely surfaced from deep sleep to a stage where the imagery occurred, then fell back into a deep sleep once more.

An occasion which parallels that of the sleep/awake interface is the time when a person is driving alone in a vehicle late at night and becomes aware of their surroundings in a mental 'jolt'. They have succumbed to 'road hypnosis' and momentarily 'drifted off'.

Have you ever been driving along, be it day or night, and suddenly become aware that you cannot recall the last stretch of road which you travelled along? One of the worst mental 'jerks' I've ever had was of 'waking' up driving a car at eighty kph along a highway unable to remember the last twenty minutes of driving. It was along a road I drive everyday, and yet I couldn't recall that stretch of time. I had quite a fright again when my passenger suddenly said to me, 'do you remember driving past Reynella?' We had both 'switched off' from noticing the road and the heavy traffic — and we had done so for and at the same period of time.

So, both our conscious minds had been preoccupied for a 20-minute period and yet I had safely driven twenty-five kilometres whilst in peak hour traffic.

Talking to other drivers I found that this type of experience was not uncommon, especially over short periods of time. Apparently, it is even more prevalent for semi-trailer drivers on long night runs.

The danger of course, besides an accident, lies in the fact that the mind is not preoccupied with the mechanics of driving and is in fact not fully alert, being at these times on the borderline of sleep/awake. This leads me to speculate that night-time, single-reporter, car-pace and car-stop cases might not be all they have appeared to be.

Let's examine a classic case of this:

Mr W. had been playing cards at a friend's house until the early hours of the morning on 2 August 1976. He had drunk only one beer. Returning home travelling north at four a.m. (it had just stopped raining), he was going at about seventy to eighty kph when he came to the bottom of Ten Mile Hill. He noted a sound like electronic music which suddenly came 'on' and sounded as if it was music 'turned up too high and distorted'.

An area lit up in front of the windscreen like a picture screen, coloured yellow with a figure in profile on the right hand side. The figure seemed to be in the process of turning towards the witness. Mr W. braked the Landrover but

seemed to go through the screen. He thought that he had knocked someone over but there was nothing in view. He stopped the vehicle in front of a service station about a kilometre down the road. All was quiet; there was no one around.

He drove home feeling rather upset. His parents were asleep, but he was welcomed by the family dog. Feeling somewhat better he went to bed.

The screen had seemed to completely fill his forward vision both straight out and also upwards from the windscreen. There were no defined edges at all. He didn't notice whether anything was visible from the side windows. There was a strong light which seemed to be from the screen itself – a dull yellow colour. He could see neither the road nor the bonnet of the vehicle. The screen simply 'appeared'; it didn't 'fade in'. He drove 'through' it and it wasn't there any more.

The figure seemed to be large, three metres high and three times wider than a normal figure of a person. It was seen in right profile. It wore a tight black (or dark blue), featureless jacket on top with tight yellow trousers (only top of these visible). Mr W. didn't notice the face though this was in profile anyway. The hair was a light colour, modern style of cut, shoulder length.

Here I would speculate that a tired mind actually 'perceived' an image as outside the vehicle and it was so vivid as to cause the reporter to believe that the 'person' was real and external. Taking this idea a little further one then cannot trust as genuine any report at night where a motorist or even passengers relate having caught a few seconds' glimpse of 'entities' in strange garb walking along the side of the road. These observations are just too likely to be involved in an interplay between mind and imagination.

I recall an incident when I was driving down from Queensland to Sydney in 1974. A fellow researcher in my car who had been awake for some twenty hours told me at two a.m. to watch out for a figure crossing the road in front of us which was in reality a quite stationary post box on the side of the road. This perception was to him a dark cloaked figure, whilst I saw it for what it really was. Of course my perception might have been out and what I took to be a post box could have been a figure. I'd prefer my explanation, thanks very much.

Having collected close to 100 reports of entities in Australia and New Zealand, I am firmly convinced that quite a few are of this type and should be disregarded.

With this in mind can any of our residual car cases be seen to fall into this category? How about Boyup Brook as a candidate?

There we have a man driving along at 9.30 p.m. at 120 kph who perceived an object approach after which his car stopped dead and electrical systems failed. An important fact was his comment that there was no feeling of deceleration. The car instantly seemed to come to rest. After five minutes the car was going at 120 kph once again with no feeling of acceleration at all. The instantaneous change of speed is the clue; I believe that in fact the car never

stopped at all. I would suggest that what in fact happened was that the driver lapsed to subconscious level and drove along automatically, whilst imaging the object and the car's behaviour.

We could only prove this to be the truth if someone had been following the car, didn't see any object or see him stop the car, and yet he still persisted with the account. So at the moment the image hypothesis remains just that, an idea.

If we accept that something along these lines could occur to people then we would be able to explain away events such as Boyup Brook, Murray Bridge, Kadina and a multitude of others. Each is an individual event and each might need a slightly differing analysis. We could perhaps postulate that the Murray Bridge case was one where the driver did in fact pull up, but sat in the car for the forty-five minutes (was it really forty-five minutes?). Remember, there was nothing wrong found with the car. Absolute proof would of course elude us because no independent witnesses are available. It is a noteworthy thing that with quite a few of these car stops where cars are 'taken over', the event ends as another vehicle does approach although this person doesn't see anything at all. Extraterrestrial believers postulate that this means that the extraterrestrials do not want to be caught 'at it', as it were. A far simpler explanation is that the approach of another vehicle with associated noise and light acts as a stimulus to end the image.

The image hypothesis would go a long way to explaining two of the many factors which have long puzzled UFO researchers:

(*a*) *Events originate from the country*, *happen to drivers*, *during the night*
These are exactly the factors we would expect to produce an image — driver straining to make out details in the headlights in a dark environment with no mental relief. This could possible lead to images; indeed would be conducive to images.

(*b*). *So many different things are reported*
This factor has often led sceptics to discount the UFO phenomena saying that there are too many different objects and entities seen to represent a true extraterrestrial inspection. Under my image hypothesis, it is easy to suggest an explanation. Each event is perceived by people. Each person is an individual with their own beliefs, acceptances and personal interpretation. Each person has a mental picture of what an alien would look like to them, and it is little wonder if each alien were totally unlike any other. I would suggest that this diverse reporting is due to the image hypothesis. In like manner, I would propose that we could discount observations of car stops, car paces, figures seen from cars and close range observations of entities as nothing more than images from the human mind. To see the image lengths the mind is capable of going to, we'll take a look at abductions.

Accounts where people claim to have been physically removed from their surroundings and taken aboard a UFO are few and far between. However,

there exists a collection of perhaps 100 or so such accounts which have been collected by persons interested in this aspect of the phenomena.

Although few in number they are the type of case guaranteed to stir up the blood and cause controversy whenever they occur. You may recall a few years back the case where a man claimed to have been abducted and was missing for five days before turning up with his story, or the case of the two men mentioned earlier at Pascagoula, USA, who related being medically examined by strange creatures.

Abduction cases possibly more than anything else have led to the speculation that we are being visited from outer space, because it fits so neatly into the 'let's sample the population before making contact' idea of the extraterrestrial theory.

Stories which emerge are verbally complex and at first hearing sound too incredible to have any shred of truth in them. However, after investigation they are as soundly related as any other sort of close encounter and the person who relates having experienced the event is indistinguishable from those reporting encounters of the first, second and third kind.

Upon investigation the events may be divided into three main groups: (*a*) the reporter is driving at the time of the event and quite often the event begins and ends with the vehicle in motion; (*b*) the reporter is in bed; or (*c*) the reporter is in an outside environment.

To give you some idea of the sort of thing which we are talking about, let's set the scene for each of these groups of events.

A typical example of group (*a*) would be that of a man who was driving alone after midnight when he saw a flash of light in front of the car. The last thing he remembered was driving along at 120 kph, and this is also the first thing he recalled afterwards. Later he discovered that there was a period of an hour during the day that he cannot account for. He goes to a psychologist and under regression hypnosis recalls encountering three beings who took him into a 'craft' for a medical examination.

Group (*b*)'s example would be of a woman who awoke during the night and felt paralysed, unable to move or speak. A being entered the room and took the woman to an object to carry out a medical examination. She passed out and upon awakening she found herself back in her own bedroom.

Our third category is one where the reporter had a similar experience to (*a*) and (*b*) but was taken up by a beam into a UFO while walking in a paddock.

We come back to the basic facts that the abduction cases mainly occur at night, often in country or isolated areas and that there are no independent witnesses to the event. Another anomaly is that we do not seem to have any accounts where an abduction was in progress and was stopped by the intervention of a third party. There are no cases where a third party comes onto the scene to see an entity taking a person aboard a UFO and manages to

rescue them from the clutches of the alien monster. There is a wholeness to the accounts, they have a beginning, a middle and an end.

In order to see just what we are getting ourselves involved with I collected details on some twenty-five abduction stories, thirteen of which concerned a single reporter. Most can be found to occur at night, often after midnight, in a darkened environment. There is a clarity of detail, a brilliance of light; illumination inside the object often comes from an invisible source and many of the accounts even under hypnosis are incomplete and vague. A listing of the single reporter events shows that twelve out of thirteen were reported to have happened to men, which is statistically odd because my sampling was completely at random.

Do the above characteristics remind you of our prior speculation about imagery? The type of abduction reported when a person is taken from their bed would certainly line up with what is known about images. The characteristics of all three abduction groups are the same and in fact to date have been treated as the one type of event because of this. I would suggest that we need to break the events down in the same way as other close encounters and look at the circumstances surrounding these reports.

It's all very well having an hypothesis, but do we have any concrete leads which suggest we might be on the right track? I think we have. Proof obviously is going to be very difficult to come up with. To have absolute proof we would need to come across a person who drove their car to the side of the road whilst we watched, sat there for say half an hour, then drove off at high speed to the police to report having just come from an abduction scene. That person would then have to undergo a lie detector and hypnotic session and convince us that they believed the event to have happened.

However, suppose a person comes to you and relates having been sitting in a car when they were suddenly transported into a room where the illumination was very good and there was white light in spite of no windows, doors or light fittings! While in this room an entity materialised. What do you think of this case? Abduction? Well, this is what happened in the Frankston event of 1972. We discussed it in some detail earlier. So, was it an abduction?

Wait a minute; you now recall that there were two other people in the car at the time all this was going on, and they merely say that the lady in question seemed to lapse into unconsciousness! How can we possibly have an abduction in these circumstances. Perhaps it only occurred in the lady's mind. I believe we are fortunate in having had the case so well investigated by Bill Stapleton and Garry Little of Victoria, for it seems to confirm what we have begun to suspect.

Another abduction case with a clue occurred near Calgary in Canada in November 1967. A young man was walking between houses, across a paddock, on a three-minute trip which apparently lasted forty-five minutes.

He arrived home in a daze with glazed eyes. Under hypnosis he revealed that he was walking along when he heard a high-pitched noise, looked up and saw an object. He was then taken up into it and medically examined. However, the hypnotist believed that the incident was actually a subconscious memory recall of an appendectomy operation at an earlier age.

To summarise, abductions occur under similar circumstances to other close encounters and there is a predominance of detail in abduction accounts which parallels the other types of encounters.

Abduction accounts come from walkers, sleepers, drivers, and if we look carefully at them we might say that the accounts are a mixture of imagery and memory recall of some earlier experience.

We have at least one case on record where an 'abduction' occurred, when others were physically present and maintain nothing occurred except that the lady 'fainted'. In at least one other the professional opinion was that the reporter was recalling an operation. Please bear in mind these points as we proceed.

Multiple abductions

Cases where more than one person recalls being abducted have been said to prove that the event really happened. However, from an inspection of a dozen multiple events, the evidence leaves suspicions as to the cause. The reason I say this is that all the details quoted by multiple abductees are the same as for single reporter cases. They occur in the same sets of circumstances and there is the same lack of recall, until hypnotised. Another anomaly is that very often only one person recalls the event vividly, or there is some internal difference between the accounts. One interesting fact is that the type of person who experiences a multiple event very often recalls psychic-style events both preceding and after the event.

I would stress here that this is one area which cries out for a scientific investigation, and thus much speculation remains just that – speculation.

There are some cases where the reporter shows obvious physical signs of having undergone what to them is a frightening experience. Sore eyes, tears, nervous disorder, and even needle marks have been reported. The most general effect of course is the deep conviction that the event happened as they recall it. All this really indicates is that either: (*a*) the event did really occur; or (*b*) the event, being created in the mind which is the controller of the bodily functions, induced the appropriate reactions to the event in the form of upset, glazed eyes, shock, or even marks upon the skin.

Here in (*b*) we may have a parallel with the medically recognised 'hysterical conversion'. Hysteria is recognised as an illness resulting from emotional conflict and is generally characterised by immaturity, dependency, and the use of defence mechanisms such as dissociation and hysterical conversion. Hysteria is classically manifested by dramatic personal physical symptoms involving the voluntary muscles or the organs of special senses.

During the process of conversion, unconscious impulses are transmitted into bodily symptoms. Instead of being experienced consciously the emotional conflict is expressed physically. Face, arms or legs might swell, or tunnel vision or other abnormalities be experienced including shock.

So what is medically well accepted may explain something which on first sight seems hard to fit into a mind-induced theory.

I have suggested that an explanation for close encounters with the UFO phenomena be sought in the direction of a mind-generated event. The hypothesis I have proposed is based on the information which has been available to me over the last few years. Attempting to find a mechanism for this hypothesis is much more difficult, and I am enable to offer more than a few comments here. A much more in-depth study needs to be carried out about people who have reported encounters of this nature before one could see if the image idea is worth pursuing.

I would suggest that close encounters may be due to the brain virtually injecting either a memory recall or a made-up scene into the conscious mind of an apparently normal, healthy person which in some cases provides such a convincing perception that the recipient's mind accepts it as reality.

It is accepted by the general population and medical science that hallucinations of all sorts of weird and wonderful scenes can be brought on by drugs and mental diseases. These scenes are both real and vivid to the beholder. We clearly have a difference here between these types of causes and what I am suggesting for the close encounters. All of our close-encounter reporters seem normal people and free from visible mental stress. What then could be the cause of memory recall or imagery in these people? Also, why are UFOs seen and not fairies or pink elephants?

Firstly, let us briefly describe some aspects of the workings of the human brain which can be measured, although we still know very little about the brain overall. Within the brain we are able to detect and differentiate between several kinds of brainwaves. There seem to be four main types:

(*a*) Alpha — usually associated with an alert but relaxed state. This is the most predominant wave in a typical waking state. They are blocked by sudden stimuli. Diminish when asleep, but increase if awake with eyes closed.

(*b*) Beta — appear in intense concentration and mental agitation.

(*c*) Delta — associated with disease. Infrequent when awake. Dominant in infants up to the age of one.

(*d*) Theta — seem to be a function of emotions, creative imagery and computation on a deep level. Infrequent in a waking state. In people two to five years old theta rhythms dominate. In addition theta increases with laughter, crying and signs of hunger. Increases when eyes closed. Excess theta may be evident in schizophrenics and psychoneurotics. Victims of the former can withdraw into fantasies.

I mentioned earlier that when you are drifting off to sleep imagery emerges. It will be seen that a person who is travelling alone, especially one at two to three a.m., while at a biological ebb, and thinking of the surrounding environment they were in (country, no street lights, little traffic, etc.) would be prone to be in this position of driving along and finding imagery drifting into their minds. Imagery, mind you, which is generated by the increased theta brain wave pattern.

The same might also occur at any time of the night when our recipient rises from deep sleep due to some stimuli outside the house, tent or caravan they are in. However, instead of completely waiting up as they think they have, I would suggest they merely rise to the imagery stage, perceive the event, then either fall asleep or do in fact then wake up in their sleeping environment completely convinced the event was real.

Why UFOs?, we must ask ourselves. If the image hypothesis is correct then we must have been suffering from similar sorts of imagery all through history, not just now. Have we any indications that this is true? Yes, I believe there is.

In all ages right through to the beginning of the nineteenth century, we have had a belief in visions which occurred to certain individuals. Way back these people would be regarded with awe and perhaps became the oracles. Later in the Middle Ages, we became afraid of witches, elves and hobgoblins and suchlike, which everyone knew were ‘out there’ at night. A percentage of the population could be found who actually reported seeing witches and such creatures in isolated spots such as forests, notably during the hours of darkness. A general belief pervaded all classes of people, with the grass roots of society permanently convinced they did exist.

People who are interested in proving a psychic connection to UFO reports have linked such reports to today’s UFOs, suggesting that UFOs are merely the current disguise for something which used to manifest itself as fairies and ogres in days gone by. The general belief amongst the population as a whole came from the few reported observations being spread and distorted — and this, coupled with a lack of desire to disprove the accounts incorrect, supplied a belief for people to hold on to.

The twentieth century brought aircraft, rockets, missiles and talk of interplanetary and interstellar space ships. Behold, the UFO phenomena in its present form emerges. From 1947 onwards, the extraterrestrial theory has been regarded as the most likely explanation and has subsequently been defended against all other suggestions.

With constant exposure to TV, radio and press reports from throughout the world and little attempt being made, except amongst UFO groups, to sort out the wheat from the chaff, plus the many books that peddle the idea that we are not alone in the universe, no wonder our imagery is steering itself in the direction of ‘men from space’.

A high population percentage believes in UFOs according to public opinion polls. These same people have had such a persuasive exposure to all kinds of material on close encounters, that it is no longer possible as it was a few years ago to say that a person couldn't have known those fine details.

This then is why I put forward the thought that our imagery shows us silver discs and very human-looking entities, and currently not fairies or little people. We are caught up in reinforcing our own fantasies with every new case. This is not helped by UFO groups trying to prove UFOs exist by publishing details in depth on every new case without searching for a mechanism for them.

The next question we should ask is: do we have a mechanism for our awake cases?

I'd like to draw your attention to the experiments of Dr W. Penfield who attached electrodes to the brains of patients suffering from epilepsy and discovered that stimulating the brain in certain spots produced 'hallucinations' of their past lives and perceptual 'visions'. The patients did however remain aware of their presence in the operating theatre but simultaneously experienced the awareness of being in two places at once — for example, in a festival hall listening intently to a concert and hearing every note in fine detail or being at their tenth birthday party. Electrical stimulation of the brain was producing a memory playback.

This sort of memory playback may help us to explain the content of abduction cases. UFO researchers have suggested that abduction cases are really memory recalls of hospital operations undergone by the reporter. Remember the Calgary case of 1967. Detailed investigation would be needed to show if this were true in all cases.

One finding of Penfield's which is of interest to us here is that the time sense in his patient's hallucinations was 'real time'. This was established by getting someone to tap out the timing of the music they were hearing at their concert. Now one almost certain fact about abductions is that the event is very often uncovered because of the finding of a missing period of time by the reporter. We cannot be certain in all cases but in the Calgary case a three-minute trip took forty-five minutes. It would have been invaluable if, as in the Frankston case, someone had been in the same area as the reporter and seen what occurred. I wonder if we would have seen a UFO or if in fact we would have seen him fall down unconscious and lie on the ground for that period?

If the mind does throw up past memories like this when a person is placed in an abduction situation, then no wonder they believe the event as exactly as it unfolds. To them it is true, and retelling the event under hypnosis will produce the same account. A lie detector test would prove they were telling the truth as they saw it.

Before you decide not to accept this possibility remember we are only talking about a known collection of some 100 cases through the last eighty

years in a population of in excess of 3000 million people. Also, that the mind has provided us with such mysteries as people who utterly believe they are the reincarnation of Napoleon or Caesar and hallucinate. We usually confine these poor souls to mental institutions.

I admit, I'm only speculating here by pointing out possibilities and similarities. But I think it's about time we started to find out where reality starts.

Ferguson (1973) describes how William Dement and associates of Stanford University looked at neural discharges — PGO (pontine-geniculo-occipital) spikes — which occur most heavily, but not exclusively, during paradoxical sleep. These bursts are thought possibly to bring on intense visual imagery associated with REM sleep. Dement's team demonstrated that PGO spikes not REM sleep are the critical element. Cats deprived of paradoxical sleep without interfering with the production of spikes found none of the usual REM rebound followed this deprivation. If animals were deprived of sleep altogether the PGO spikes began to occur when they were awake and the cats seemed to be hallucinating.

Schizophrenic patients if deprived of paradoxical sleep showed no rebound either, which strongly suggested they were discharging the PGO spikes while awake. Indeed if the acute schizophrenic is experiencing waking PGO bursts this may seem external. This could then be an explanation for the complaints they make of being shot with rays or electricity falling from the skies.

If we were to postulate therefore that PGO spikes occurred to people normally regarded as the norm during waking hours, intense visual imagery might be generated and, effectively to the person concerned, reality might take the form of the imagery for a while. Possibly this could be an explanation for our daytime close-encounter events.

In summary, I am recommending that, if it is found that brains of seemingly normal and healthy people are capable of producing spontaneous imagery in the manner I have conjectured, then this will be just as important a contribution to our knowledge as the attempts to confirm the extraterrestrial theory. Whatever the outcome, I see the UFO phenomena as the legitimate area of science as a whole. There is a vital need for more qualified people to examine the accounts which are constantly being made throughout the world. There is also an urgent need for an expansion of facilities where people who experience 'encounters' with the phenomena can go to report their experiences without ridicule. The existing American Center for UFO Studies and a few UFO research organisations are a start.

Each reported event needs in-depth examination to determine its ability to contribute to our understanding of what is going on. A study by Foulkes, Spear and Symonds in 1960 found that high imagers had more favourable personality attributes than low imagers. They were less rigid, more self accepting, more socially passable and more creative. We need to examine close-encounter reports in this tight.

It should always be borne in mind that what a person says they saw and what really occurred in the view of everyone else may be entirely different. Thus, regression hypnosis may fail to detect an image from reality.

Well, there you are. We have progressed through the business of my interest in the subject, found that many UFO reports may be satisfactorily explained, and explore the possibility that the residue may have a psychological background. The truth may tie in understanding more about ourselves and our beliefs than in the stars. Only time will tell.

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CATALOGUE OF REPORTED CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITHIN AUSTRALIA

This catalogue has been compiled from a variety of sources. I wish to acknowledge the co-operation of all member organisations of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, PO Box 546, Gosford, NSW 2250, and those listed below.

ACOSB	Bulletin of the former Australian Co-Ordination Section of the Centre for UFO Studies (now ACUFOSJ).
ACUFOSJ	The Journal of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies.
AFSD	The Australian Flying Saucer Digest, incorporating QUFO. Now defunct.
AFSR	Australian Flying Saucer Review. Now defunct.
ASR	Australian Saucer Record. Published by former UFOPIA. Now defunct.
AUFOR	Australian UFO Review — former publication of UFOR NSW.
BOUNDY, R	Investigator for UFOR FNQ.
CHALKER, Bill	Investigator for UFOR NSW.
CUFOS Trace	'Physical Traces Associated with UFO Sightings', compiled by Ted Phillips, CUFOS, Chicago, 1975.
FSR	Flying Saucer Review, FSR Publications Ltd, West Mailing, Maidstone, Kent, Britain.
GODIC, V	Publisher of the 'UFO Research-Australia-Newsletter'.
GORISS, H	Investigator for UFOR FNQ.
GRIESBERG, H	Co-ordinator for the Australian Centre for UFO Studies.
JACKSON, P	Investigator for TUFOIC.
QUFO	Magazine published by UFOR Qld in mid 1960s.
RENEKE, D	Investigator for UFOR NSW.
TUFOIC	Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre, PO Box 99, North Hobart, Tasmania 7000.
UFORAN	UFO Research-Australia-Newsletter.
UFOR FNQ	UFO Research (Far North Queensland), PO Box 1585, Cairns, Queensland 4870.
UFOR NSW	UFO Research (NSW), PO Box 6, Lane Cove, Sydney, New South Wales 2066.
UFOR QLD	UFO Research (Qld), PO Box 111, North Quay, Queensland 4000.
UFOR SA	UFO Research (SA), GPO Box 497, Adelaide, South Australia 5001.
UFOR WA	UFO Research (WA), 84 Acton Avenue, Rivervale, West Australia 6103.
VUFORS	PO Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria 3189.

25 July 1868, Parramatta, NSW

Mr F.W. Birmingham, a surveyor, experienced a vision involving heads floating by him and subsequently observed an 'ark' moving along the same path and landing in Parramatta Park. A voice spoke to him and asked if he wished to enter the ark. The surveyor replied that he would and was 'floated' to the object. A 'spirit' appeared 'like a neutral tint shade and the shape of *a* man in his usual frock dress'. He was shown around the ark after which the spirit disappeared and '... I fell, I suppose into my usual sleeping state, waking next morning deeply impressed with the vision of the night'. (Copied from the memorandum book of Fred Birmingham 'A Machine to Go Through the Air AD 1873', prepared by UFOR NSW).

1893, Central NSW

A farmer claimed that a saucer shape landed in one of his paddocks. As he approached the object, a man in strange clothing emerged from it. The farmer walked towards the man, who shone some kind of 'torch' at him, threw him to the ground and stunned him. When he came to, the man and the object had gone. The hand where the 'torch beam' had hit him was paralysed for life. (Personal communication from reporter to Dr M. Lindtner. *Also Australian* newspaper 14, 15, 16 May 1969).

1919, Central NSW

Whilst travelling down a country road, a man came across an artifact resting near the roadside. He saw that a 'man' was apparently working on it, and went over to offer assistance. The stranger turned as if surprised and pointed something at the man, who was knocked senseless. When he came to the 'man' and object had gone. Subsequently he found that his memory was never the same again. (ACOS Bulletin no. 9, p 11).

1925, Moora, WA

Two young men came across an object resting in a paddock. It was like two saucers on edge, with oval shaped 'windows' and four legs'. The men beat a hasty retreat and didn't return for several days. When they did, they found the earth scuffed about. (ACOS Bulletin no. 9, p 12).

About March/April 1932 or 1933, Nambour, Qld, 1400 hrs

A boy observed a small UFO within a metre's range and, after a whitish mist appeared between him and the object. He felt a 'tight feeling in the head' and felt stunned. That night the boy noted large white blisters on both hands and felt 'out of sorts'. The blisters burst during the night and the following day, secreting a clear, watery fluid. The boy then felt better. (Letter to 'Contact' UFOR Qld, Newsletter no. 53).

1948, Berriedale, Tas, midnight

A lady and her sister were putting out the dog when they became aware of a very bright object which seemed to be directly above them. As it moved away they could see 'little green men sitting on a ledge on the side. The men were singing in what seemed unintelligible words to the tune of 'Three Blind Mice'. The disc moved off to the west. (TUFOIC files).

About 1950, Dorrigo/Bostobrick, NSW, night

A 'fairy ring' 6–7.5 metres across appeared on a small hill to the east of Bostobrick, at the time of UFO sightings in the area. The grass was dead inside the circle and even though the field had been ploughed many times since, the ring was still visible in 1974. (Personal investigation, Bill Chalker).

1951, East Port Macquarie, NSW, 2200 hrs

Three teenagers encountered a 'figure' at 20 metres range. It had a human outline, was dressed in some sort of robe, and seemed to be floating just above the ground. It was smoky grey in colour and had no definite head features, being some 2 metres tall. The teenagers fled. (UFOR NSW interview, 6 Oct 1976).

Feb 1951, Central Australia

Members of the Unmatjera tribe of Aborigines reported seeing two shiny circular objects on the ground some 9–15 metres across. A very small man-like creature wearing a shiny suit with bulbous head transferred from one object to the other. Both objects then took off making a buzzing sound. ('Flying Saucers Serious Business', p. 169).

6 May 1952, Creeraine, NSW, 0600 hrs

A Mr Geppart had been driving a tractor all night when a light approached him. He then saw an object 120 metres away, some 76 metres up in the air. It was the shape of a big cigar about 30 metres along, and 4.5–6 metres deep. There was a bright red nose and portholes along the side. After passing by him it shot away at a terrific speed. ('UFOs over the Southern Hemisphere', M. Hervey, p 63, 'UFOSH').

Early 1953, near Warragamba, NSW

Following several UFO sightings a hiker who happened to be walking through the area of these reports saw a group of several 'man-like' forms clothed in 'space-suits'. They seemed to be searching the ground with strange metal devices. (Unconfirmed anecdote, and also Rex Gilroy, Katoomba, NSW).

1953, Wilcannia, NSW, day

Two men out driving took photos of a saucer-shaped object hovering a metre above an electricity pole less than 30 metres away. They estimate it was 9 metres in diameter, with circular windows around the top section. Projecting from the under surface were three 'pods'. The object left at speed. Later the men claimed that the RAAF had confiscated all but one print. (*Barrier Truth*, Broken Hill, 9 June 1966).

21 Jan 1953, Graceville, Qld

Two men reported being followed by a metre diameter bright light, which was accompanied by a smaller dullish red one. As their truck approached the light, it shot into the air, circled and followed them. When the two men stopped, the object landed 60 metres away, but they did not investigate. (UFOSH, p. 96).

9 Oct 1953, Caulfield, Vic, 1550 hrs

Grey-white filaments which had a tendency to disintegrate on handling, and which left no traces, were found. Analysis determined that they consisted of a nylon-like amorphous mass, with traces of Mg, Ca, B and Si. Since then the material, some of which was collected and stored in an air-tight container has shrunk from a metre to 2½ centimetres without leaving a residue. (AFSR, UFOR NSW, No. 9, p. 12, photo).

About 1954, Bankstown, NSW

Working late at an airport just after dark, two men observed a 'flying saucer' hovering over the observation tower. There were portholes around it and shapes inside which seemed to move around. It finally shot into the air at great speed. (Personal communication to Mark Moravec, Sydney).

1954, SA/WA Border, day

Three young men reported that their car had been followed by a 'disc', and that they had taken a large number of photos of it. Subsequently they were interviewed by the RAAF who reportedly confiscated the pictures. (ASR 5/3, p. 13).

Feb 1954, Todd River Downs, NT

An Aboriginal herdsman was reportedly bowled off his horse by a 12 metre diameter spherical object which terrified both horse and rider. It 'rumbled' and had four columns of smoke on each side of it. (*Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, 2 Apr 1954. FSR 16/3/28).

28 April 1954, Geelong, Vic, 0600 hrs

The driver and fireman of a train said that a dark purple light was seen diving and banking, then hovering for 90 seconds. Following this it swooped at the train, coming within 100 metres, before departing. ('UFOSH', p 73).

30 May 1954, East Malvern, Vic, 0025 hrs

An orange 'oval' was seen by six people as it travelled in a downward curve. As it pulled out of the curve a cloud of orange-yellow smoke and flame was seen at the rear. Then it went upwards and disappeared all within 5 seconds. Three of the people stated that they saw shapes, which looked like human figures, inside it. ('Flying Saucers Over Australia', pp 54–59, FSOA).

31 May 1954, Elizabeth, Tas, 1530 hrs

Two people reported seeing a dark object which appeared to come from ground level and which then travelled straight upwards at terrific speed leaving a white vapour trail. (TUFOIC files).

9 June 1954, Dandenong, Vic, 1820 hrs

A 16-year-old girl and her friend said they were terrified as an object hovered 20 metres from them. It was cylindrical in shape, about 10 metres long and 5 metres high with a window on top and at each end. It issued a bluish/silver grey light and hovered in mid-air. A loud drumming noise had been noted at first. (FSOA, p. 53).

Oct 1954 (?), Qld

A Mr Hall was said to have seen six elliptical objects land from which about a dozen uniformed 'men' emerged. Later, they entered the objects, which took off. (*Sunday Telegraph*, Sydney, 23 Jan 1955, quoting 'Sir' magazine).

23 Oct 1954, Berri, SA

A 2 metre long, scaly creature was reportedly observed up a tree. It subsequently vanished. ('UFOSH', p. 126).

1955, Near Eucla, WA

Three young men saw a shiny object falling to the ground. After an hour's search they found jagged pieces of shining metal and saw a moving figure which they described as like a frog from the back, and semi-human from the front. One of the men took photos of it before it 'disintegrated'. (*Daily Telegraph* Sydney, 2 Aug 1955).

22 April 1955, Tintinara, SA, 0745 hrs

Glancing to his right, a man driving a car was surprised to see a 3 metre diameter silvery sphere, surrounded by a flange giving an overall width of 10 metres, which crossed some 30 metres behind the car. It turned and moved roughly parallel to the road and he followed it for 20–25 kilometres before it climbed rapidly into the sky. There were no portholes or markings visible. (ASR 1/2 p. 8).

29 May 1955, Smithfield, Qld

Thomas Robinson and two other farmers saw a 'light', trailing flames, land briefly five times. The farm dogs ran out barking as it landed within 100 metres of the witnesses. ('Passport to Magonia' catalogue, case 363, FSR 16/4/35).

Oct 1955, Port Augusta, SA

White filaments were seen falling to the ground at the time of a UFO sighting. (CUFOS trace catalogue).

1956, Wilcannia, NSW

A man photographed a UFO hovering in the sky. The picture shown in the source shows a typical disc with dome. (*Barrier Truth*, Broken Hill, l0 June 1966, photo. AFSR (Vic) no. 5 p. 15).

24 Sept 1956, Crows Nest, Qld

A silver grey 'bullet' was noticed descending to the ground, by a lady. It then flew slowly up the slope of her drive at a 3 metre altitude. The object appeared to be solid, and had no wings or 'landing gear'. Size was put at 6 metres long with a 'cabin' and an attachment at the back. (UFOR QLD files).

Oct 1957, Fiji, 1500 hrs

Four people came across an object hovering about 6 metres above the sea. The figure of a man was standing outside of it, and was seen to shine a very bright light at their boat which dazzled and weakened the two couples. The figure disappeared and the object rose vertically and was lost to sight. (*New Zealand Herald*, 21 Oct 1957).

Pre-1958, Central Australia

A story circulated that two schoolboys came across two little men, dressed in an unusual way with something hanging from their belts, which were not revolvers. ('Light' magazine, vol. 3, no. 2, Dec 1958).

17 July 1958, near Lake Gardner, SA, 0915 hrs

A rushing noise followed by a tremendous double bang was heard, and a blue ball with a brilliant white tail was seen in the sky. The area was checked and an unusually hot piece of ground was found, although no actual crater was ever discovered. (ASR 4/3 p 17).

8 Jan 1959, Risdon, Tas, 0920 hrs

Two HEC employees saw a 3 metre long object disappear between buildings. Three other objects were seen in the sky and a fourth like an 'inverted skittle with a ball on the end of a handle' eventually appeared to dive into the River Derwent. (TUFOIC files).

12 March 1959, Purnong Landing, SA, evening

A young boy was preparing for bed when he saw a 'man in red', about 2 metres tall, crimson faced, red jacket and trousers, white trimmings, standing by his bedroom door. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

13 March 1959, Purnong Landing, SA, 0210 hrs

Cresting a hill, two men in a truck came upon a 'dome' illuminated by coloured lights. They stopped the truck and watched the 10 metre diameter object as it went through a regular sequence of colour changes. The lights all then went out and the men approached from the 100 metre distance they had stopped at. As they did so the object took off silently at a 45° angle and was lost to sight after 20 minutes in the southern sky. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield. ASR 5/2).

23 March 1959, Adelaide, SA

Two men said they saw a strange object, firstly in the sky and then on the ground. ('UFOSH' p. 134).

31 March 1959, Port Elliot, SA, 2330 hrs

Barry Neale (15) was driving home to Goolwa when he saw on the ground about 100 metres off the road, a glowing reddish-orange object with a row of portholes. It illuminated the trees, and was about 2 metres wide. He got to within 300 metres of it, and drove around a wooded area in time to see it take off a high speed. No radioactivity was found at the spot (Adelaide *News*, 2 April 1959, p. 15. ASR 6/4 p. 14).

26 June 1959, Boianai Mission, Papua, 1845-2130 hrs

This well-documented sighting had 38 witnesses, including the Rev. W. Gill. A brilliant light was seen to approach a mission. It appeared to be hovering some 100 metres up, and was solid and circular with a wide base and a narrower upper deck, with legs. At a number of intervals a shaft of blue light came from the object and shone into the sky at a 45° angle. As the group watched 'men' came out of the object onto what seemed to be a deck on top of the disc. There were four in all, sometimes two then on then three, etc. The spotlight and men disappeared, then the object moved through some clouds and was lost to view. ('Flying Saucers over Papua', Rev. B. Crutwell, FSR Special Issue No. 4, Aug 1971).

27 June 1959, Boianai Mission, Papua, 1800–1900 hrs

Another disc was seen; two smaller objects were also seen. Four figures appeared on top as per the previous night, although this time they were observed to respond to waves from the priest and natives. The disc also seemed to respond to torch signals by wavering like a pendulum. (Source as above).

Sept 1959, near Euramo, Qld

Mr Max Mencel reported that whilst driving a tractor he saw a brilliant, large conical object, approximately 10 metres long, hovering just above the cane-tops. Its vivid red and orange coloured light illuminated a nearby house. ('UFOSH' p. 101).

Late 1950s/early 1960s, Bentleigh, Vic, early morning

A strange, brick-coloured oily line across a sheet was found after it was left out on a line overnight. Dogs were barking during the night and a whirring noise was heard. Lights were seen in the sky during the night in question. ('UFOSH' p. 90).

Late 1950s, Warrandyte, Vic

A section of Research Road sports a tradition of unusual activity including an account of a white, glowing man-like figure and a 'huge pink sphere'. (Article in the *Independent*, Perth, 23 Oct 1977).

14 May 1960, Mt Gambier, SA

A group of people reported they were followed by a red light of about 3 metres across. ('UFOSH' p. 139).

Aug 1960, Belmont, NSW, 0130-0200 hrs

Awoken by a buzzing noise a lady looked outside and saw a bright light coming from a round object. She then noted a 'person' 1–1½ metres tall, average build, normal humanoid appearance, wearing a dull olive green skin-tight suit with a helmet and white/grey footwear approaching the house, looking at the ground. When he was 3 metres away she went to get someone else. When they returned nothing was in view. (AUFOR NSW, no. 10, Dec 1969 p. 31).

15 March 1961, Bowna, NSW, 2045 hrs

Mr F Reynolds and his son were camping, and saw an unusual sight by a river. It appeared to be a large caravan with four windows and a red light near by. About four 'persons' seemed to be moving between this 'fire' and 'van'. Looking through binoculars they noted that the whole van and fire seemed to move sideways in a jerking manner. He looked out again later but there was nothing visible. An inspection of the area revealed a mud flat without any traces. (Discussion between Keith Basterfield and Peter Thomas who originally investigated the case in 1961. AFSR, no. 5, July 1961).

5 Aug 1961, Mt Hale, WA

Two objects were seen from which came a 'snowy white fine mesh'. (CUFOS Trace catalogue quoting NICAP 'The UFO evidence' from a Perth paper 8 Aug 61).

1962, Broadmarsh, Tas

A letter to the editor claimed that a 6 metre long black object had been observed just above the ground and had touched down, causing a fire in a paddock at Brighton. (Hobart *Mercury*, date unknown).

6 June 1962, Caroda, NSW, 1120 hrs

A trail of shiny web-like filaments, appeared to leave a high flying light. These gradually disintegrated as they drifted through the air. A hazy mist of light threads seemed to fill the sky. Some of these were as long as 2 metres and were said to be of a fine, nylon-like texture. A search of the local countryside for traces was to no avail. (AFSR, NSW, no. 9. 'UFOSH', p. 47).

28 Oct 1962, Salisbury, SA, 1930 hrs

A school teacher and her children reported seeing an orange glow on the ground at an estimated 3–4 kilometres away. Her son claimed that he could see an oval shape, with windows, legs and two 'men'. Investigations cast strong doubt on the case. (ASR, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 13–14. Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

1963/64 Hobart, Tas

A schoolboy reported seeing a UFO land on a beach and said he was approached by two entities. They spoke to him and later he developed a high IQ but was difficult to control. (Confidential source known to K. Bennetto, TUFOIC's sightings officer 1969–75).

15 Feb 1963, Moe, Vic, 0700 hrs

Two farmers watched as a thick grey disc about 9 metres wide with protrusions and a dome on top, came shooting out of clouds and over trees. It hovered a short distance away about 23 metres above clear ground. No sound was heard. After a few seconds the object moved off at speed to the West with a 'swish'. (VUFORS investigation. AFSR no. 8, p.10).

23 April 1963, Levendale, Tas, 2230 hrs

Whilst driving a tractor, a farmer saw a yellow circular object come from the West and pass overhead, 50 metres above him. It illuminated the ground, was soundless and 30 metres across. There were no EMF effects. (TUFOIC files).

16 May 1963, Glenburnie, SA, night

A car load of people reported that a bright light had followed their car for several kilometres, and had turned from red to white. ('UFOSH' p. 142).

18 May 1963, Beachport, SA, 0700 hrs

Mr B. Mathley saw a round, red-and-blue, oval shape directly above his car. At the same time the sound on his radio cut off. The object was travelling East to West (UFOR SA files).

19 May 1963, Mt Gambier, SA 2130 hrs

A 17-year-old apprentice mechanic encountered an object on one side of the road he was driving on. When his car was about 6 metres away from it, a bright light came on and dazzled him. He pulled up, the object moved across the road, and he drove his car under it. The object was oval in shape, 5 metres wide and 3 metres high, with the light being as bright as 'the arc light in electric welding'. (UFOR SA files. 'QUFO' 1/2, p. 6).

28 June 1963, Sandy Creek, SA, 2130 hrs

Rounding a corner in his vehicle, a man came upon a blood-red object extending across the roadway. He applied the brakes and was within 3 metres of it when it rose suddenly from the road. After rising a 100 metres or so it turned on its side and sped off streaming vapour. The object was described as 8 metres across and 4 metres high with a concave top and a flat base. It glowed blood-red while close to the ground and appeared to change to a lighter reddish-yellow as it gathered speed and flew off. ('QUFO' 1/3/26).

7 Nov 1963, Dalyston, Vic, 1415 hrs

A bread carter was followed by a 3 or 4 metre long glowing object, orange in colour and looking like a 'cloud', at 30 metres range. It pursued him for 3 kilometres then accelerated away to his right. (*Wonthaggi Express*, 7 Nov 1963. 'QUFO' 1/5 pp 21–22).

22 Dec 1963, Summerholme, Qld

Two boys reported seeing 8 or 9 cylinders swoop low over their house and travelling at speed plunge towards the ground 250 metres away. A search of the ground revealed nothing. ('QUFO' 1/5 p. 28).

3 Feb 1964, Gum Creek, SA, 0230 hrs

A farmer's wife awoke to suddenly see a 'man' holding a 'black box' in the front garden. Described as a male humanoid about 162 centimetres, brown balaklava helmet, blue/green overalls, brown open jacket, the figure walked towards where the woman was looking through a window. She slipped down into bed and fell asleep. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield. FSR 16/4/32).

Extended period 1964-72, Northern NSW

Near Glenraigh, an abandoned railway crossing has provided accounts of 'ghost' lights and on one occasion a 'transparent' man in baggy clothes and a broad hat. (Personal investigation, Bill Chalker).

19 Feb 1964, Gum Creek, SA

The same percipient as the 3 Feb 1964 event observed an object approach the house, and hover close by it. She saw a 'man' standing at a 'wooden railing' inside the object. It eventually departed into the sky. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

29 Feb 1964, Plympton, SA, 1400 hrs

A young boy reportedly saw a large oval 'saucer' descending into a paddock, in a busy suburb in broad daylight. A tall figure emerged from it and walked around for a while before re-entering it. The object took off, observed by the initial witness and an another young boy. Investigation has cast some doubt on the account. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield. FSR 16/4/32).

13 March 1964, Salt Creek, SA, 1817 hrs

A grazier reported that a 70 metre long thing had followed his car near Tilley Swamp. An unusual noise was heard, following which the object took off at great speed. (AFSR no. 8 p. 9).

2 Aug 1964, Wittenoom, WA

Residents called police to say they had observed a cigar-shape lined with windows which shone with red, white, orange and yellow lights. There was a red tail, and it was about 50 metres long, being only some 10 metres above the ground. ('UFOSH' p. 157).

1965 Sydney, NSW 1730 hrs

A lady said she saw a snow white 'flying saucer' from which emerged a man on a shiny ladder, who shone a strange beam of light into the sea. The ladder and man retracted and the object raced out to sea. (*Australasian Post*, 1965).

24 May 1965, Eton Ridge, Qld, 0005 hrs

Three men noticed a strange luminous machine resting near the ground some 500 metres away from them. It was a black disc with banks of brilliant lights underneath, hovering over trees, at 70 metres above the earth. It seemed to measure 7.6–10 metres across and 25 centimetres thick with a 4.6 metre high under-structure. An area of ground was illuminated by it. The object then approached and stopped, after which it retreated and approached twice more before finally leaving at high speed. (AFSR NSW no. 9, Nov. 1966, p. 12. AFS Digest Jul-Sep 1965).

27 May 1965, Acacia Ridge, Qld, 0415 hrs

Arising to get her child a drink of water a lady observed a very bright flat, orange-red object about 100 metres from the house. This 3 metre wide light hovered, and finally disappeared as if 'snapped off. (AFS Digest Jul-Sep 1965).

28 May 1965, Bouganville Reef, Qld, 0325 hrs

An Ansett airlines DC6 was on a flight to Port Moresby when the pilot reported seeing an 'oblate' saucer which had exhaust gases coming from it. It paced the plane for 10–15 minutes, during which time the pilot photographed it It is alleged that the film was confiscated by the Government. (UFOR QLD Investigation. NICAP 'The UFO Investigator' Jun/Jul 1965, p. 4).

19 July 1965 Vaucluse Beach, NSW, 1730 hrs

Whilst walking along a beach a man encountered a 7 metre diameter disc resting on the sand. He was about 16 metres from it when it rose with a noise Eke air being forcibly released from a balloon. (*Telegraph*, Sydney, 21 July 1965. AFSD Jul/Sep 1965, p. 28. FSR 16/6/27).

27 July 1965, Carnarvon, WA, 1940 hrs

Driving along, a Mr Kulka and a Mrs Lawrence noted a green then orange light in the sky. It enlarged to a 'tea-saucer-size' glow. They got out of the car and watched as the object hovered in mid-air rocking from side to side. It drifted westwards and eventually disappeared soundlessly. (*Telegraph*, Brisbane, 18 Aug 1965. AFSD Oct/Dec 1965, pp 27–28).

30 July 1965, Goonumbla, NSW 0500 hrs

Attracted by the barking of a dog, two children observed for the duration of an hour a luminous object resting upon a tripod landing gear. (*Sun-Herald*, Sydney, 1 Aug 1965. AFSD Jul/Sep 1965. FSR 16/6/27).

13 Sept 1965, Boggabri, NSW

Mr C. Willis and Mr A. Chad noticed a low flying, cigar shape with a 10 metre long tail and a nose cone like a space capsule, moving at the speed of a jet. It was lost to sight behind trees. (ASR Vol 9 p. 11. 'UFOSH' p. 51).

Oct 1965, Granton, Tas, 0400 hrs

A dark object which seemed to come from the ground went straight up into the sky and disappeared. Dogs in the area were disturbed. (TUFOIC files).

Early Oct 1965, Sydney NSW

Dozens of residents reported a huge shimmering 'ball' of light hanging in the sky. A Mr. Fuller said, 'It seemed to be hovering only about 12 feet over a flat roofed block of flats opposite my place. It faded away soundlessly after a few minutes'. ('UFOSH' p. 51).

Early 1966, Culcairn, Vic

A number of circular 'nests' were found during a two month period from Feb to March 1966. One was 4 metres across, and about six were 2.–2.5 metres in diameter. (Personal investigation, Bill Chalker).

1 Jan 1966, Narrabri, NSW, 2100 hrs

A brilliant disc was reported manoeuvring and diving upon a car. It then skimmed across the field and was lost to view. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 11. 'UFOSH' p. 52).

19 Jan 1966, Katanning, NSW, 0030 hrs

A Mr L. Marshall noticed a large object hovering 16 metres above the ground. Its top revolved and emitted a bright red, yellow and green light. Finally it ascended to 640 metres, soaring off with a hissing sound. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 17).

19 Jan 1966, Euramo, Qld, 0900 hrs

The 'famous' Tully 'nest'. A Mr G. Pedley was startled to see a blue-grey saucer with no portholes, antenna or signs of life rise from a lagoon area, making a hissing sound. It rose vertically at speed, slowed down at 20 metres altitude, then left to the South-West. Inspection of the area revealed a circle of dead reeds on the lagoon surface, swirled in a clockwise direction and of 10 metre diameter. No satisfactory explanation has come to light to date for the 'nest'. (UFOR QLD investigation and files. *Sun-Herald*, Sydney, 23 Jan 1966).

22 Jan 1966, Cooktown, Qld, night

Police Sergeant Hagerty, driving with his wife along a lonely road came across 76-centimetre diameter 'bubbles' floating above the road. He drove over them. ('UFOSH' p. 116).

14 Feb 1966, Bankstown, NSW

An almost symmetrical 7-metre diameter circle of reeds were found to be swirled (not broken) in a clockwise direction in a swamp. (AFSR NSW no. 9 p. 22, photo).

14 Feb 1966, Woodbridge, Tas, 2130 hrs

Rising from the ground a large orange-red glow Crossed to land on a beach on Bruny Island (TUFOIC files).

22 Feb 1966, Euramo, Qld

A large silvery disc 10 metres across swooped over the bush hut of a Mr. Palcic. The object had flames underneath. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 17).

24 Feb 1966, Tully, Qld, 2100 hrs

An orange-blue light was reportedly seen above some trees, and appeared to be rotating. It drifted eastwards. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 17).

27 Feb 1966, Keith, SA, 2200 hrs

Hovering several metres above a road, a 'saucer inverted over another saucer' was observed for a while, before it left at great speed. The witness stopped and noticed a smell like ozone. (UFOR SA files).

Feb 1966, Toorbul Point, Qld, 2115 hrs

A TV went 'on the blink' as a very bright object approached, hovered, then returned in the direction from which it had come. It was oblong, 20 metres long, and was seen from 100 metres at the closest. Mangrove swamps over which it had moved were reported shrivelled and scorched. (UFOR QLD investigation).

29 March 1966, Wauchope, NSW, 2100 hrs

A brilliant large oval light with glowing red portholes passed silently by, dipped low then, headed away. ('UFOSH' p. 53).

2 April 1966, Balwyn, Vic, 1402 hrs

A VUFORS member took a polaroid photograph of an object which was estimated to be 6–7 metres across and 40 metres up in the air. It resembled a large mushroom with a stalk. (AFSR VIC no. 5 July 1966 p. 2, photo).

4 April 1966, Bourkes Flat, Vic, evening

Driving along, a man was startled to see his car's headlights veer hard right for no reason at all. He pulled up, and in the middle of the paddock saw an ice-cream cone shaped column of light on the ground. It rose into the sky without a sound. The car's headlights returned to normal. Three days later a 19-year-old youth died at that spot. A motorist travelling behind him said that he saw no reason for the youth to have swerved. (*Maryborough Advertiser*, 15 April 1966. AFSR VIC no. 5 p. 12).

6 April 1966, Westall, Vic

School children and a teacher observed a dazzling, silver object flying near a school. It was said that aircraft approached it, the thing tilted at a 45° angle and moved g, silver object flying near a school. It was said that aircraft approached it, the thing tilted at a 45° angle and moved away. In a paddock over which the object seemed to hover, the grass was crushed in an area 8–10 metres across. (AFSR VIC vol. 5 pp. 13–4).

May 1966, Corndale, NSW

An oval-shaped depression about 25 centimetres deep and 7 metres by 5 metres was found in grass on a property. (AFSR NSW no. 9 p. 44, photo).

25 May 1966, Wilcannia, NSW

Peter Nielson and Tom Murkins were walking home when they saw a brilliantly lit object in the sky. After moving around the base of clouds in an eccentric manner it became motionless and hovered overhead for a while. ('UFOSH' p. 54).

May/June 1966, Coonalpyn, SA, 0200 hrs

Upon investigating a glow on a hilltop, a farmer saw a 10-metre diameter oval, white/blue in colour. He left the area only to be followed by the tight which moved overhead and then disappeared soundlessly. (UFOR SA files).

5 June 1966, Grafton, NSW, 1945 hrs

Two policemen pursued a bright object which manoeuvred at low altitude for two hours. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 18).

8June 1966, Kingston, SA

Two ice-cream truck drivers reported having seen a brilliant object hovering over their vehicle for some 20 minutes. It looked like a white spotlight with a red light on top. ('UFOSH' p. 146).

July 1966, Moltema, Tas, 2315 hrs

Travelling by car, two people were 'paced' by a round, red soundless light which although at times only 3 metres away, didn't seem to affect the car at all. It then moved to the North and just disappeared'. (TUFOIC files).

18 July 1966, Hope Valley, SA, 2030 hrs

Rising at great speed, a large bright white light moved from the ground into the sky after having been observed on the edge of a reservoir. (UFOR SA files).

14 Aug 1966, Kununurra, WA, 2353 hrs

Mr P. Johnson was working on a bulldozer at night when he was approached by an object which illuminated the dozer, ground and him. It hovered about 200 metres away for 4–5 minutes. It had white and red lights on it. It slowly went off and disappeared, but came back again later that night and also the next night. The next night it paced his vehicle 100 metres away. Shining his torch on it he could see two doors, many windows and what looked like a front window. (*Sun-Herald*, Sydney, 27 Nov 1966. AFSR no. 6 p. 8).

Sept 1966, Broken Hill, NSW, 0130 hrs

A light stopped in mid-air, hovering some 4 metres from the ground for 3–4 minutes, then took off, leaving a rainbow coloured trail. (UFOR NSW files).

Late 1966, Eyre Peninsula, SA

Eight identical 6-metre diameter circles were found on a flat stretch of earth close by a road and appeared to have been burnt into the surface. ('UFOSH' p. 146).

1967, Western Australia

A Mr Campbell related observing an object and subsequently being visited by an 'invisible' entity. (ABC radio programme 'Investigations' 24 March 75).

14 Jan 1967, Windale, NSW, 0300 hrs

Two police officers noticed an object with red flashing light on it at an altitude of 120–180 metres. It shone a beam of light to the ground. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 20).

19 Feb 1967, Wollstonecraft, NSW, 1920 hrs

A married couple were watching TV when a bright object travelling very slowly at high level attracted their attention through a window. It then hovered over the roof of a nearby house 150 metres away. It glowed orange red and drifted out of sight. ('UFOSH' p. 55).

5 March 1967, Hallam, Vic, 1730 hrs

John Coyle (15) and sister saw what they thought was a very fast plane approaching. It circled around and John took pictures of it. It was a silver colour with a dark patch underneath it. (*Australasian Post*, 6July 1967. FSR 14/1/32).

30 March 1967, Peterborough, SA, 2030, 2130, 2230 hrs

Two men were in a vehicle when the engine and the lights just stopped. Getting out to look for the problem they then noticed a disc shape ascending rapidly at 30° SW, emitting blue to purple glows and flashes from underneath it It was lost in the sky. Upon trying their car it started alright. An hour later a stationary purple glow was observed in a creek bed, followed another hour later by a 6-metre diameter disc which was seen to take off from the ground. This gave out blue/purple/green/orange/ yellow colours and was also lost to sight in the sky. (AFSR NSW no. 10 p. 31. UFOR SA files).

16 May 1967, Purnong Landing, SA, 2330 hrs

Observing a red coloured light stationary on the opposite bank of the River Murray and thinking that it was a vehicle in distress the reporter crossed the river to assist. The light appeared to be about 4 metres across. However, when he got there there was nothing to be found. (UFOR SA files).

28 May 1967, Murray Bridge, SA, 0200 hrs

Four young people watched as two very bright, pale-yellow coloured balls, some 10 metres across, crossed the road behind the vehicle they were in. A third similar ball was seen in an adjacent paddock, about 6 metres off the ground. (UFOR SA files).

13 July 1967, Cronulla, NSW

Two people said they watched a glowing red orb descend and land in some marshes, illuminating the area as it did so. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 23).

13 July 1967, Belmont, NSW

A brilliant tight was seen descending. It levelled off and continued at 70 metres altitude. It was drop-shaped and visible for one minute. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 23).

26 July 1967, Seacliff, S.A.

Elliptical in shape and of a bright bluish-white colour, an object was visible out to sea. After a while it smoothly accelerated away towards the West, its white light changing to orange and then red around the rim. A low frequency hum was heard as it moved off, and it eventually was lost over the horizon. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

24 Aug 1967 Wodonga, Vic, 1700 hrs

Mr Ron Hyde was motorcycling between Melbourne and Sydney when he was suddenly engulfed in a blue/white flash. He stopped his bike and when his eyes cleared, he saw about 30 metres away in a clearing on the ground, a metallic object hovering a metre off the earth. It resembled two saucers, one inverted on top of the other, separated by a 300-centimetre band of metal. On top of the object was a small dome 2 metres tall, on top of this was a flat topped ball, about 25-centimetres deep. He turned away for a second and upon looking back saw two silver clad figures, 152 centimetres tall, silver overalls, no signs of seams or fasteners. Helmets resembling opaque fishbowls hid their heads. The witness took a step in their direction and the figures did the same. Then one figure beckoned to him. He panicked, jumped on his bike and raced off, only to be followed by the object, before it shot off into the sky. (VUFORS investigations. AFSR VIC no. 8 pp. 44–5).

29 Aug 1967, The Gardens, Tas, 2015 hrs

A party of seven hunters saw six round saucers appear out of a gully, little lights all round, bright tights underneath. They darted off to the East after the hunters shone a spotlight on them. (TUFOIC files).

Oct/Nov 1967, Hilltown, SA, 0200 hrs

Awakening to hear a buzzing noise, a family upon looking out of the window observed an oblong rounded yellow/ green ball of light, 2.4 metres across with a red pulsating light on it. The buzzing noise was audible all the time, and finally the ball just took off vertically into the sky. (UFOR SA investigation).

13 Oct 1967, Boyup Brook, WA, 2130 hrs

Driving along at about 105 kph a man became aware of a lighted object approaching the car from the air. Almost immediately the car stopped dead, and all the electrical systems, the lights, motor and radio were off. He had no feeling of deceleration at all. The iridescent blue oval was 10 metres across, 30 metres away, and there was a tube of 'light' extending from it to the car. After five minutes the tube light 'closed off' and the object left at speed to the West. The car was then found to be at 105 kph with no sense of acceleration. No noise was noted at all, but the man found his watch to be five minutes slow. (AFSR VIC no. 8 p. 18. FSR 17/3/29).

Nov 1967, St George-Mitchell, Qld

Two people were driving along when they saw an object 4 metres high and 5 metres long hovering about just off the ground in a nearby paddock. There was a doorway in the front and a foldup hatchway which led to the ground. It was first a green/blue colour, then changed to silver as they drove closer. It took off. ('UFOSH' p. 120).

16Nov 1967, Yerecoin, WA, 1830 hrs

While out mustering sheep in a Landrover, a farmer heard a humming noise which increased in intensity. An object approached and stopped just by his vehicle. It was shaped like an inverted saucer, 5 metres across, with four 'windows', two round and two square, visible to him. The colour of it was grey, and its height was 2 metres. It seemed to hover a few metres above the ground, although no traces were found afterwards. The farmer spoke to it and received an echo of his own voice. No electromagnetic effects were noticed on the vehicle. The object ascended and, by the time he got out of his vehicle, the object was out of sight. (AFSR VIC no. 8 p. 13. AFSR NSW no. 10 p. 32).

Late Dec 1967, Biloela, Qld 2000-2100 hrs

Mr S. Milno on returning home noted three men in silver uniforms standing on the roadside 100 metres below a lookout. He pulled up and reversed his car after he seemed to have hit one of them. However, nothing unusual was to be seen. Later that night the three men were reportedly observed elsewhere. (Personal investigation, Rex Warren and the Gladstone UFO group).

1967/68, Clare, SA

A story circulated that a disc landed and a hairy dwarf jumped out and disappeared into the ground. Unconfirmed rumour. (Personal investigation, F. Stone, UFOPIA).

1968/69, near Lowana, NSW

A married couple encountered a 'transparent man' walking near a railway crossing around which UFOs had previously been reported. The man looked 'uncanny' and 'unnatural' but apart from that looked like a 'normal' man wearing a flannel shirt and dungarees. (Personal investigation, Bill Chalker).

13 Jan 1968, Wattamolla Beach, NSW

Campers noticed a silent erratic flying light which became larger and brighter. Rocks were lit up and then the object 'switched off' and hovered 400 metres away, 60 metres up, clearly visible as a disc with dim red band along its rim. It was said to have responded to torch signals before moving slowly away. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 25. 'UFOSH' p. 57).

8 Feb 1968, Koorda, WA, 1000 hrs

A Mr Stephens was ploughing a paddock when his dog took off. He looked up and saw an orange-red circular object moving along 4 metres above the ground less than 600 metres away, at 50 kph. It didn't appear to have any windows or lights. Finally it was lost to sight over a hill 300 metres away to the SSW. ('UFOSH' p. 163).

15 Feb 1968, Koorda, WA, 1600 hrs

While working on his tractor Mr H. King noted an object an estimated 3 kilometres away, taking off from a paddock, in a vertical direction. It banked towards him and was lost to view over Lake Moore. ('UFOSH' p. 163).

3 April 1968, Narrabeen Lakes, NSW, 1315 hrs

Mrs Mabel Marsh was driving with her nephew when they both observed a strange creature standing with its feet in shallow water. It was about a metre tall, dark grey, tough leathery skin, small front legs, and walked on its hind legs which were thick and round like an elephant's. It ambled out of the lake and ran into the scrub. (*The Sun*, Sydney, 5 April 1968).

20 April 1968, Willoughby, NSW, 2215 hrs

Mr Fluke watched a well defined disc with magnesium-like luminosity, 100 metres in the air descend towards the horizon and disappear quickly. (AUFOR no. 10. p. 25).

25 April 1968, Cairns, Qld

A group of children discovered an oval-shaped depression in sugar cane, size 21 metres by 9 metres. (AFSR vol. 15, 3, p. 4).

25 April 1968, Matraville, NSW, 2000 hrs

Travelling south at 200 metres a shiny metallic disc with a slight dome was seen. It changed direction erratically before finally fading out. (AUFOR no. 10 p. 26).

2 May 1968, Hayfield, Vic, 0440 hrs

Two sanitary collectors Messrs Whelan and Lord were in a truck which broke down. They thought they were about to get a tow when a string of red lights approached. Whey they didn't come closer they climbed onto the truck and could then see that it was in fact an object in a paddock, being a row of red lights with a dome on top. One man later went back and found that the grass had wilted as though sprayed with poison. (*Evening Post*, Wellington, NZ, 2 May 1968. 'UFOSH' p. 86).

August 1968, Smithton, Tas, 0000 hrs

A commercial pilot was driving when he noticed a very bright light some 75 metres ahead and 30 metres up in the air. It had a bluish-white glow and he heard a swishing noise. The light paced him for 4 kilometres. He increased speed to 160 kph then dropped to 75 but the object still paced the car. Finally he turned a curve in the road and the object was lost to view. (TUFOIC).

10 August 1968, Strathfield, NSW, 2208 hrs

Misses Miller and Smith caught sight of a brilliant orange-red light descending from the sky towards them. From a distance of 150 metres the object seemed a perfect sphere. It passed behind some trees, rose and suddenly vanished in mid-air without a sound. ('UFOSH' p. 59).

18 Nov 1968, Hill River, SA, 1845 hrs

Two children watched a 60-centimetre long by 25-centimetre thick football-shaped light, golden in colour, pass within 50 metres of them and appear to land in a paddock. A spot was later found, flattened in a 2-metre oval. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

18 Dec 1968, Wairakei, NZ, 2230-2300 hrs

Two people were travelling by car when they encountered an average-sized man dressed in a 'diver's suit' standing alongside an isolated road. The figure was striding along like a 'zombie' and did not acknowledge the car passing by. (Auckland University UFO Research Group. FSR 15/4/29).

28 Dec 1968, Goulburn, NSW

A 45-year-old carpenter's story of contact with a man from Saturn was dismissed as a hoax. (UFOR NSW investigations).

1968/69, Walcha, NSW, 1800-1900 hrs

After the family dog started barking two children went to see what was the cause. They rushed in and said that they had seen a small man walking out the side gate. Their mother dismissed the story, but when the dog started barking again the whole family of nine went outside and saw a large, red, circular ball hovering over the front gate. After 5 minutes it moved slowly away and went over a nearby hill. (Personal investigation, Bill Chalker).

1969, Penrith, NSW, 0200 hrs

A young man recounted seeing a huge disc with windows, through which human shaped beings could be seen moving about. After about 5 minutes it rose to 20 metres, hung there, all the lights went out and flashed on again. He and some friends followed it for several kilometres before they lost sight of it. ('Psychic Australia', Sept 1976).

Jan/Feb 1969, Tuckurimba, NSW

A charred 5-metre diameter circle was found in a grass paddock. Originally the area appeared to be blackened by 'intense heat'. (*The Northern Star,* Lismore, NSW).

14 Jan 1969, Childers, Qld, 0430 hrs

Awoken by the frenzied barking of their dog, a migrant family heard a noise like a big swarm of wasps. Going outside their caravan they saw a 25–30 metre 'sombrero hat', giving off a violet glow. Three 'spacemen' descended in a tiny craft similar in shape to the large object. These men seemed to be three times the size of a normal person. They gave off a violet-yellowish glow, as they collected plants and sugar cane which were sucked up to the large craft via a transparent tube. After 10 minutes the men re-entered their ship, which took off. As it did so the hair on the family's heads and arms stood up. (*North Queensland Register*, 18 Jan 1969. Adelaide *News*, 17 Jan 1969. FSR May/June 1969. FSR 18/1/26).

17 Feb 1969, Flinders Park, SA, 0250 hrs

Awoken by a noise which sounded like a 'whirr', a lady looked out of a window to see an unusual object in an adjacent area. It appeared about 100 metres away, some 10 metres across. A 'man' emerged from shadows and walked around the object. This figure was about 1.8 metres tall, lean, had light hair, and wore white overalls. He walked around the object several times before the lady ran to get neighbours. When they returned the object had gone. (UFOR SA investigation. RAAF 'unusual aerial sightings' summary no. 1969).

19 Feb 1969, Omagh Road, NSW

A 6-metre circular area was found inside a 6-metre wide cattle corridor enclosed at both ends by • water troughs. There was a 30-centimetre wide circular band which seemed scorched with four distinct squares, of 45-centimetre sides. (*Northern Star*, Lismore, 27 Feb 1969).

19 Feb 1969, Goolmanger Creek, NSW

Children discovered a 'nest'. (Personal investigation, Bill Chalker).

20 Feb 1969, Norseman, WA

As a 10-metre long cigar shape was noted 24 metres away, a fully fuelled car 'began to gasp' as if out of fuel. The object moved away over trees knocking up dust and leaves, before rising and disappearing. (AUFOR no. 10 Dec 1969).

22 Feb 1969, Renown Park, SA, 0300 hrs

A lady was awoken by what she thought was a strong wind but noticed that the curtains were not moving. A pyramid shape, 61 metres away and 6 metres diameter, dirty white in colour, was seen hovering close to the ground. Her daughter also saw it. After an hour they both went back to bed. (UFOR SA files).

22 Feb 1969, Afterlea, NSW, night

Mr B. O'Neil found an impression in a swamp. Elliptical in shape, 9 by 3.5 metres, with reeds flattened and entangled, it wasn't scorched. From the impression, four flattened tracks led out with small half moon depressions at the end. (*Northern Star*, Lismore, 27 Feb 1969).

22 Feb 1969, Grafton, NSW, night

A 'burnt' circle covered with 'ash' was found on the morning after a sighting. Examination of samples by the Dept. of Agriculture indicated the circle was suffering from a leaf smut. (*Daily Examiner*, Grafton, 25 Feb 1969).

23 Feb 1969, Tumbulgun, NSW

A perfect 3.6-metre diameter circle appeared on a lawn. It was marked by a grey black sooty substance. (*Northern Star*, Lismore, 27 Feb 1969).

April 1969, Swan Creek, NSW

A series of deep depressions were found in the centre of some flattened saccaline crop on the north-west side of a road. (*The Daily Examiner*, Grafton, 24 Apr 1969).

4 April 1969, Bungawalban, NSW

A saucer-shaped ring was found on the property of a Mr K. Reed. (UFOR NSW).

15 April 1969, Bungawalban, NSW

Four flattened areas in a saccaline crop were discovered, the largest being 18 by 4.5 metres. All the stalks of the crop lay in a north to south direction. (*Daily Examiner*, Grafton, 19, 21 and 22 April 1969).

20 April 1969, Harwood Island, NSW, 1930 hrs

Sugar cane rustled as a UFO arrived and departed, and during the sighting the object hovered 3 metres above the cane. The witness was sure there was some flattening of the crop but did not attempt to verify this. (Personal investigations, Bill Chalker).

24 April 1969, Greenacre, NSW, 1930 hrs

A woman, her young daughter and a taxi-driver reported observing three tall humanoids in a football-shaped object which hovered over a floodlit field. The taxi driver then drove the vehicle away. (UFOR NSW Newsletter 31, June/July 1971).

May 1969 (1967?), Alberton, SA, evening

A man using some spare movie film took shots of a 'star' in the sky. However, the processed film shows an actual shape, and when examined carefully the frames revealed an oval with window. Inside the window appears an 'entity'. ('Pix-People' magazine, 1 Dec 1971. Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

7 May 1969, Kelvedon, Tas, 1930 hrs

Two boys saw a red glowing object 15 by 12 metres with lights in the centre, on the ground. It took off and departed across a bay towards Freycinet Peninsula. (TUFOIC files).

12 May 1969, Casino, NSW, 2145 hrs

After a sighting lasting 10–15 minutes of a low level UFO in heavy rain, the witness verified that a faint luminous patch was visible for over ½ hour after the object had departed. Next morning no traces or marks were evident. (*Northern Star*, Lismore, 15 May 1969. ACOS Bulletin no. 10 p. 20).

22 May 1969, Glenorchy, Tas 2330 hrs

Mr G. Lange noted a bright glowing 6.5-metre wide by 3-metres high white object with windows hovering above the ground in a backyard. He rushed outside but the object had gone, leaving a scorched circle 3.3 by 2.5 metres wide. There was no sound, and no radioactivity was found. (TUFOIC files).

23 May 1969, Mt Lloyd, Tas, 1930 hrs

Half a dozen people saw a red light like a spotlight in a paddock, floating about 4.5 metres up. (TUFOIC files).

24 May 1969, Dubbin, SA, 1455 hrs

Mr Stevens reported that while driving his car he heard an 'engine' noise, and upon looking up he saw an object about 54 metres above him, hovering. It was a 6-metre oval of a silver colour, and moved sideways 10 metres before shooting off at a 45° angle into the north-west sky. (UFOR SA files).

4 June 1969, Eden Valley, SA, 1835 hrs

A latticework of red lights held together by white 'rays' passed over the top of a car at high speed soundlessly. The following day three circular scorch marks were found on the car bonnet. (UFOR SA files).

27 June 1969, Minlaton, SA, 0400 hrs

Working a night shift on a combine a farmer was followed home by a 4-metre light. Arriving home, his wife also saw it as it came so close that the light reflected off a neighbour's shed. Finally lost to view behind a hill. (UFOR SA files).

30 August 1969, Grafton, NSW, 1445 hrs

Streams of a white filament were seen in a river. When rolled in the hand they diminished in size, eventually disappearing. At the same time several people in Grafton observed an object passing over the town. (Personal investigations, Bill Chalker).

3 Nov 1969, Windsor, SA, 1630 hrs

Three children reported seeing a 2-metre long 'egg' with a tail and four legs flying around in circles which apparently landed on an old back road, before rising rapidly vertically into the sky. Traces were found at the spot. (UFOR SA files).

7 Dec 1969, Windsor, SA, 1500 hrs

After a reported observation of an unusual object an area of grass was found flattened in a 10-metre circle. (UFOR SA files).

1970, Midlands, Tas, night

A group of people were travelling home after a late party and were followed by a disc shaped object which extended a ladder below it. A man-like figure was seen. (TUFOIC member who learnt of the account which originated from a policeman).

March 1970, Scottsdale, Tas, 2130 hrs

A forest worker was driving along when he saw a flash in the sky, then his car radio was overcome with static. A soundless, green object, three times the diameter of the full moon was seen to the rear of the car about 200 metres away. (TUFOIC files).

9 April 1970, Onslow, WA, 1100 hrs

Shipper Bob Manton of the freighter *Ashburton* was one of several people to see an aluminium coloured object with a white tail. It appeared to touch the ground and a fire was seen. (CUFOS trace catalogue p. 70).

June 1970, Emerald Beach, NSW, 0030 hrs

Six circles of stunted grass and fem growth with two of about 10-metre diameter were found. Analysis showed that there were little physical differences in the sandy loam, and ultra violet spectroscopy revealed no difference in chemical composition of the grass. (Personal investigation, Bill Chalker. ACOS Bulletin no. 9 p. 21).

4 June 1970, Croydon Park, SA, 0420 hrs

A milkman reported seeing a 'blue disc' 30 metres up, 30 metres diameter, and 30 metres away. A whining noise was heard. (UFOR SA files).

29 Oct 1970, Hill River, SA, 0100 hrs

A young boy noticed a cigar shape on the ground 150 metres away from a farm house. It was white, had four legs and seemed to be transparent in the middle. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

3 Nov 1970, Boggabri, NSW

A depression some 2 metres across was indented to a depth of 15 centimetres with a central indentation about 40 centimetres across. The sides were as smooth as glass. There were seven smaller holes around the edge of the main indentation. A fine powdery substance at the base of the main hole and around the hole was indicated to be possibly 'a dehydrated salt encrustment'. (Personal investigation, Bill Chalker).

8 Dec 1970, Thadura copper mine, WA

Several miners saw a large silvery disc with portholes and a pulsating green light. A 'nest' was found. (CUFOS trace catalogue quoting 'National Enquirer', USA, date unknown).

29 Dec 1970, Victor Harbor, SA, 0000 hrs

A 'saucer', red in colour was seen in the north at an estimated 200 metres distance, some 3 metres above the ground. A humming noise was heard, after which the object vanished in mid-air. (UFOR SA files).

1971, Warragamba Dam, NSW

A hiker was camped in a remote area and was awoken by a loud humming noise. Investigating he saw an egg shape and dark men, moving around it. The figures went into the object which rose into the air, now silent. (Unconfirmed anecdote, Bill Chalker).

1971, Cairns, Qld

A young man claimed to have been taken for a ride by humanoid occupants. (Bill Chalker).

1971, Broome, WA

The wife and daughter of a well known singer observed a light on the side of a road. The light came from a 'man' bathed in a luminous glow. One of his hands was outstretched and from it to the ground, a yo-yo ball of white light, bounced up and down. Then the witnesses saw they were surrounded by thousands of small lights. They drove over these, which vanished after each impact. (*Daily Mirror*, Sydney, 5 Nov 1975).

1971, Adelaide Hills, SA

A rumoured close encounter type three report. No details can be ascertained. (Personal communication to Keith Basterfield).

11 Feb 1971, Thevenard, SA, 0035 hrs

A blue-white light with a spotlight shining down into the sea soundlessly passed overhead of a group of men loading a wheat ship. Nearby Ceduna airfield advised there was no traffic in the area at the time. (UFOR SA investigations. AFSR VIC vol. 3 no. 4 p. 20).

March/April 1971, Atkinsons Dam, Qld

A parachute magnesium 'flare' was seen coming down about 1900-2000 hrs. Three flattened areas were later found. A large number of tree branches were broken and twisted. RAAF helicopters and jets were alleged to have been in the area the next day. (UFOR QLD investigations).

2 April 1971, Greenhill, NSW, 2200 hrs

About four hours after a well witnessed sighting of a brilliant aerial object seen coming down near the area, an Aboriginal man was levitated through a closed window in the kitchen of a house, after seeing a small, round hairless face at the window. He was unhurt. (*Macleay Argus*, April 1971. FSR 17/4/20).

10 April 1971, Loxton, SA, 2130 hrs

Two men saw a yellow-red burning light slowly descend behind trees. All through that night they heard a light 'pinging' noise on the roof of the caravan in which they were sleeping. No traces were found upon inspection next day. (UFOR SA files).

20 April 1971, Colombatti, NSW

After a sighting in the area, circular burned patches of grass were discovered in a paddock on the farm of a Mr Yamold. (*Macleay Argus*, 20 April 1971).

May 1971, Werombi, NSW, 2200 hrs

Two saucers, rims facing but not touching, with a blinding tight between, seen 5 above the horizon at 600 metres distance and 300 metres altitude. Attention was drawn when 150 greyhounds on a farm began barking. (Student UFO Society of NSW).

10 May 1971, Cronulla, NSW, 1715 hrs

A young girl's horse pranced around excitedly and her dog began barking as she saw a metallic 'egg' approaching at an altitude of 30 metres, with a brilliant long tapering exhaust. It stopped overhead then moved north. That evening a buzzing sound was heard coming from nearby hills and the same object was seen twice more. (APRO Bulletin May/June 1971).

22 May 1971, Norwood, Tas, 2030 hrs

A motorist reported seeing a 3-metre object with dull white, blue and red lights touch down near the roadside 50 metres away, then disappearing upwards. A flattened area of broken and twisted undergrowth was reportedly found, twisted to the right over a 3-metre area. (*The Examiner*, Launceston, 5 June 1971).

23 May 1971, Cethana, Tas, 1930 hrs

Mr Riley noticed a round red light some 30–50 metres away and some 30 metres above the ground to the right hand side of the vehicle he was driving. The light soundlessly crossed the road in front of him and disappeared behind some tall trees. (TUFOIC files).

19 June 1971, Chigwell, Tas, 0255 hrs

Watching from a house, a person saw a dull, silver bell-shaped object with red/green/orange/violet vapour at the bottom, move from SE to NE soundlessly. (TUFOIC files).

June 1971, Walpole, NSW

A 3-metre burnt ring, 100 centimetres wide was found. (*Keene Evening Sentinel*, 7 July 1971).

24 June 1971, Wilmot, Tas, 2245 hrs

Dogs were disturbed as a round bright object surrounded by smaller lights, landed in a paddock 400 metres away. Its lights disappeared after first dimming. (TUFOIC files).

9 July 1971, Narrawa, Tas, 1930 hrs

A white, 3 by 1 metre oval was seen in a paddock 300 metres away. It moved as witnesses tried to approach in a car. No traces were found. (TUFOIC files).

2 August 1971, Queenstown, Tas

A burned area of ground was found, a complete circle of 10 metre diameter. (*The Advocate,* Burnie, 16 August, 1971).

8 August 1971, Kadina, SA, 1845 hrs

A PMG employee's car engine stopped after he noted the area lit up by an orange glow. Getting out he saw a 10-metre disc radiating orange with two red lights and one green light on it. It appeared 30 metres up and emitted a 'buzzing' or 'purring' sound. Hovering briefly, it then left to the SE. The car then started alright. The owner of a nearby house was under an infra-red lamp that night and found it cut off for about 3 minutes for no reason. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield. AFSR VIC 3/4/20).

22 Sept 1971, Fort Glanville, SA, 2040 hrs

Mr Hollis observed a light descending towards the sea. Upon getting closer he saw, 20 metres up, and 50 metres out to sea, a sphere with a lighted curved section at the front. Switching on the headlights of his motorcycle he found that the object dimmed and moved out to sea. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield. AFSR VIC 3/4/21).

28 Sept 1971 and 5 Oct 1971, Atkinsons Dam, Qld, 1845 hrs

A car was followed on two nights by a rotating red/green/yellow/blue light at an estimated 100 metres. A droning sound which stopped and started was heard. (UFOR QLD investigation).

5 Nov 1971, South Johnstone, Qld

Two locomotive men were disturbed enough to need hospitalisation after observing a strange object in a sugar cane field. Reports state that burnt cane was found. (ACOS Bulletin no. 10 p. 21. UFOR NSW files).

Dec 1971, Tooligie Hill, SA

A 1.5-metre diameter circle ringed by a 50-centimetre wide trench pressed deep into hard clay soil was found. The trench in turn was ringed by a 50-centimetre wide band of flattened wheat, swirled in an anti-clockwise direction. The night before, a local family had observed a red ball of light descending towards the field where the ring was later found. (UFOR SA investigations).

14 Dec 1971, Waikerie, SA, 2300 hrs

Two young men were in a parked car when a figure came to their attention. It was 'floating' through trees in a 'mist', and had a dog-like head with pointy ears and a long nose. No eyes or mouth were visible on the brown head. It seemed 2 metres high and had a 'lumpy' body. Moving their car, they then saw a half sphere with windows and lights, on the ground, which after some 15 mins 'dissolved' away in 10 secs. (UFOR SA files).

14 Dec 1971, New Norfolk, Tas 2145 hrs

Several people reported seeing an object with an orange flashing dome and white lights on its rim, emitting a humming noise, at rooftop height. It went over a hill, and an explosion followed. (TUFOIC files).

Dec 1971/Jan 1972, Tyringham, NSW

A 7 metre burnt circle was found on a stud horse farm. The owner said that it was caused by a lightning strike which killed three cows. He declined to allow investigation. (Bill Chalker).

1972, Camden, NSW, 0300 hrs

A dark patch of grass was found, some 3 metres across on a front lawn, and was apparently due to slime mould. (UFOR NSW Newsletter 43, Apr/May 75).

4 Feb 1972, Tooraweenah, NSW, 1830 hrs

A circle of brown grass 100 centimetres wide and 3 metres across was verified by a person after a UFO observation. At about 90 degrees to the direction of 'take off' was another circle 100 centimetres wide and 65 centimetres diameter which cut into the first circle forming a figure eight. (UFOR NSW files).

May 1972, Grafton, NSW, morning

Mr Ron Ferret and his wife noticed three curious people, 90 centimetres tall in baggy clothes, walking down the main street of Grafton. (UFOR QLD files).

8 May 1972, Eucla, SA, 0015 hrs

A man and his son driving along the main highway noticed an orange glow in the scrub ahead of the car. It took off from the scrub away from them, when at an estimated one third of its original angular size, it simply 'faded out'. (UFOR SA investigation).

31 May 1972, Mannum, SA, 0635 hrs

A factory manager driving in fog came across a dark oval shape with one white light on its one side and one red on the other end, hanging just above the ground. He stopped his car, fearing a collision and the object rose into the fog with a 'swish'. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

June 1972, Young, NSW

An impression in a rocky area was left after a UFO allegedly hovered for about an hour and a half. ('Man' magazine Nov 72, quoting F. Wilks of the now defunct UFORPA).

4 June 1972, Bents Basin, NSW, 1800 hrs

Six young people encountered an object on a hill near their vehicle and, after driving along, they heard thumping noises on the roof following which the car's engine caught fire. Later, a huge 'shadow' of a human-like creature approached. It appeared to be a 3-metre tall 'robot', and 'vanished'. Walking back past the hill where the object had been, there was now nothing to be seen. (Personal investigation, Bill Chalker. UFOR NSW Newsletter 45, Sep/Oct 1975).

3 and 25 July 1972, Frankston, Vic, 2115 hrs

A woman observed a blue disc hovering over a highway while she was on her way home. On the latter date the same object appeared and 'control' was lost of her car, as it seemed to take control of itself and stopped at the side of the road. A voice spoke to her, after which the car re-started itself, and the object left. (Full report from investigators Garry Little and Bill Stapleton. FSR 18/6/3).

19 July 1972, Kuraby, Qld, 0200 hrs

A man driving became aware of six objects on the side of the road which turned out to be six figures soft grey in colour. One held up a hand, and its face was seen to be covered with a sort of 'faceted covering' with no visible facial features. After seeing the figures and a large solid silvery object on the opposite side of the road he accelerated away. During the encounter he heard a noise like 'p-doing, p-doing'. (UFOR QLD files. *Australian*, 22 July 1972. APRO Bulletin July/Aug 1972).

26 July 1972, Queenstown, Tas, 1800 hrs

An 'upside down parachute' with yellow squares half way up it, floated low near the ground and was chased by workmen. (TUFOIC files).

28 August 1972, Pimba, SA, night

While travelling between Darwin and Alice Springs two women repeatedly saw a mushroom-shaped object in the sky over two nights. On one occasion one reporter saw it on the ground close to the road for a brief few seconds. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield. UFOR SA).

Sept 1972, Navarre, Vic

Two large fungus rings were found. (*Australasian Post*, 10 May 1973 and 5 July 1973).

15 Sept 1972, Armidale, NSW, 0300 hrs

Three university students heard a disturbance outside their lodgings. All three said they saw a 'monk in a shroud' figure hovering 3 metres from the door. There was a flash, the figure disappeared and it seemed to 'enter' one of the students who felt sick. Later another 'flash' left the student and entered a horse which bolted. (Bill Chalker).

15 Sept 1972, Burbong, NSW

A lady heard a noise like a spinning wheel and found an area 6 metres in diameter with a scorched rim a metre wide. (CUFOS Trace p. 86).

5 Oct 1972, Wellington, NSW

Four metres high grass was flattened in a circular area with a radius of 3 metres. (*Daily Telegraph*, 7 Oct 1972).

Nov 1972, Campania, Tas, 2200 hrs

Two people were in a parked car when they noted a 'brightly fit railway carriage' in the sky, moving soundlessly northwards. There were six or more separate lights in which shapes and figures were visible. The object faded away into the distance. (TUFOIC investigations).

30 Nov 1972, Murray Bridge, SA, 2315 hrs

Out testing a car, a mechanic noticed its lights and engine playing up so he pulled to a halt, and wondered what was wrong. The radio made a 'beep-beep' sound and he found that the engine wouldn't restart. He became aware of an object 45 metres away in a paddock, diamond like in shape. It had red, purple and green lights on it. After 35 to 40 minutes this object lifted off the ground and left the area, and he found the car could be started. Three 'air holes' were found in the soil next day. (UFOR SA investigations).

1973, Armidale, NSW

An account of bright lights and burnt circles was actually a spurious account based on a lecture. (*Armidale Express*, 4 August 1974).

Easter 1973, Highland Farm, Tas, early morning

The wife of a shooter sleeping in a caravan saw the figure of a woman enter head first through the roof hatch. The figure floated back and forth before slowly leaving upward and out of the van. (TUFOIC annual report 1977).

1973, Springwood, NSW

Claims that an aerial disc 'buzzed' the building site of a house were made by several people. One man recalls seeing a blue beam of light shining through a caravan roof and then the next thing it was fading a half of a kilometre away from the van.(Anecdotal account via D. Buching UFOR NSW Sept 1975).

31 Jan 1973, Georgetown, Tas, 2145 hrs

A lady saw a soundless orange 'oval' come from the north, hover, then slowly rise higher in the sky and slowly disappear over the horizon. (TUFOIC files).

Feb 1973, Temora, NSW

Three identical 'burnt off' patches, each 6 metres diameter, were discovered in otherwise lush paddocks. (*The Temora Independent,* 28 March 1973).

4 Feb 1973, near Kimba, SA, 2150 hrs

Four people in three separate vehicles reported seeing an orange object in a clearing. A young couple driving past said they saw a 3 metres high by 2 metres wide rectangle shape, and one of them reported a 'man' in a white spacesuit 2 metres high floating in the middle of the rectangle. The other saw an orange rectangle with a white blob on top when she looked a few seconds later. Later a semi-trailer driver reported to police that as he passed a clearing he noted what looked like an open doorway and a figure. The police checked the spot within an hour but found nothing unusual. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield. UFOR SA. *Whyalla News*, 16 Feb 1973).

6 Feb 1973, Barraba, NSW

A Mr and Mrs Carter discovered an 8-metre wide circle with a 40-centimetre band in high green grass. No indentations or scorch marks were found. (UFOR NSW, S. Williams).

Feb/March 1973, Grafton, NSW, 1900 hrs

Two men noticed a human like figure with a strange hump from its hind quarters, on the side of a road. It had a form of a face, with the merest impression of long hair and a pointed chin but no discernible facial features. The men drove past in their car and didn't stop. (Bill Chalker).

March 1973, Roma, Qld

Circular marks appeared in a field of sugar drip. All the heads of grain were facing the same way. These marks coincided with UFO reports. (*The Roma Star*, 20 March 1973).

10 March 1973, Bingara, NSW

A grazier found an 8-metre circle with a 5-centimetre band on a property. (UFOR NSW, S. Williams).

25 April 1973, Anama, SA, 1055 hrs

A farmer related that an oblong grey shape with five black dots in the middle in a horizontal row, came from the east and headed south. Its trailing edge was ragged like a comet. It headed soundlessly across the wind. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

May 1973, Gainmain, NSW

Certain marks were found on the ground after a UFO sighting. The object was circular and displayed yellow/orange lights. (*Junee Southern Cross*, 6 June 1973. AUFO Bulletin Vic, Nov 1973).

May 1973, Nurrabiel, Vic

A 55-centimetres wide band, 30 metres in circumference, was found on bare ground. After a month vivid green grass had grown in its place. Suggestive of fungus. (*Horsham Mail Times*, 8 June 1973).

2 May 1973, Kalyan, SA, 1930 hrs

Driving his Bedford truck at 60 kph along a dirt road, a farmer watched a red/white light at 5 – 10° above the NNE horizon. It gained angular elevation and was lost to view from the top of his windscreen. At this instant the truck's engine and lights cut out, though the ignition and oil lights didn't come on. After 4 seconds of just rolling along the lights and engine came to life again. Next day the battery was found to be flat. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

19 May 1973, Gawler, SA

Strange nylon like patterns were observed in the sky and the material vapourised on touch. It looked like 'a shower of nylon'. (The *Gawler Bunyip*, 11 July 1973, AUFO Bulletin Vic, Nov 1973).

31 May 1973, Bellbridge, Vic

A 25-centimetre wide, 7-metre diameter ring was found in dry earth with a white powdery substance. A *Border Mail* photographer found a 10-metre ring later. Suggestive of fungus. (*Border Mail,* Albury, 2 June 1973. *The Observer*, 10 June 1973).

3 June 1973, Old Junee, NSW, 2100 hrs

A circular indentation was found, about 5 metres across. Close by were half a dozen pod marks of about 100-centimetre diameter, spaced at a regular distance apart. (*Junee Southern Cross*, 6 June 1973. AUFO Bulletin, Nov 1973).

16 June 1973, Bostobrick, NSW

A circular area was found in the same vicinity as a UFO sighting. The southern portion had large amounts of white surface powder. The NNE perimeter had a charred circular area some 100 centimetres diameter. A burnt limb was in close proximity to the ill-defined mark. (Bill Chalker).

18 June 1973, Warragamba, NSW

A freshly-flattened grass circle was dismissed as car skid marks. (UFOR NSW Newsletter 35).

21 June 1973, Tyringham, NSW

Within 24 hours of a UFO hovering for a few minutes, an area, greyish in colour and of thinner grass than the outside, was confirmed. (Bill Chalker).

June/July 1973, Armidale, NSW

A green fireball grazed some trees. Two weeks later all the leaves on that side of the trees turned brown and returned to normal two weeks later again. (Bill Chalker).

4 August 1973, Tallebudeera Creek, NSW, evening

Three Gold Coast youths claimed they were attacked by a furry creature, 2 metres tall with protruding eyes. (Adelaide *News*, 7 August 1973).

Early August 1973, Hagley, Tas, 0430-0530 hrs

Travelling along a highway a round, yellow, soundless light was seen pacing a car at an estimated height of 180 metres. It then climbed at 45° and moved quickly away, becoming smaller as it disappeared. (TUFOIC files).

Sept 1973, Willow Tree, NSW

Probable fungus rings on bare, rocky soil, 100-centimetres wide and 13 metres across. (UFOR NSW investigation).

6 Sept 1973, Ivy Tanks, SA, 0300 hrs

A 32-year-old woman was a passenger in a semi-trailer travelling across the deserted Nullarbor Plains. She had been asleep for about an hour when a 'voice' called her name and told her to wake up and look out of the window. Looking out she saw an egg shape surrounded by a 'force field' on the ground. The figure of a man was walking towards the egg, while another man was seen sitting inside. The first man entered the egg, the glow died down leaving only one white light on. The driver pulled up the truck but they did not go back to the location. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

Dec 1973, Wokurna, SA

A 3-metre diameter bare earth circle was found in the middle of a wheat field. Wheat had been swirled anti-clockwise. Soil analysis revealed no cause. (UFOR SA investigation).

Dec 1973, Bordertown, SA

Seven circular-shaped depressions were found in an oat paddock. They ranged from 3–5 metres across and were of different ages. Oats had been swirled anti-clockwise. The police forensic squad were unable to explain the marks. (Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

25 Dec 1973, Wentworth Falls, NSW, 2345 hrs

Leaf smut' was believed to be the cause for a circular area of grass covered with spherical charcoal-like particles. (UFOR NSW files).

Dec 1973, Gladstone, Tas, 2300 hrs

A driver saw a yellow light in a paddock, and approached it. When he got to within 300 metres it moved off about 3 metres off the ground. A sandbank about 3 metres high lay in the way but the light cleared this and was lost to view. The road swung away around the bank, then the light was seen again some distance away before it moved off. (TUFOIC files).

1974, Launceston, Tas

It was claimed that a local teacher had met occupants and afterwards gained extraordinary ESP powers. (TUFOIC member, second hand).

1974, Canberra, ACT

Two young women were involved in a complex event in which they felt compelled to get into their car, which then drove itself to a locality accompanied by a white light. Vague human shapes were observed together with a cackling sound. The event was repeated twice. Reported physical and mental problems occurred to one woman. (Personal communication to Bill Chalker).

Summer 1974, Tas, 2100-2130 hrs

Mr A. Richardson and his two children were travelling in a vehicle when the two children reported seeing a large object 'wobbling' over a house, complete with windows and a dark shape inside it. Their father saw only a small light moving soundlessly away by the time he pulled up. (TUFOIC investigation).

1974, North Qld

A prospector claimed that he had seen a crashed UFO and had several close encounters with a female cat-like creature. Investigation in north Queensland at the scene cast doubt on the report. (UFOR SA and UFOR NSW).

17 Jan 1974, Parramatta, NSW

A swishing sound was heard and a dog 'visibly scared'. Next morning a black-and-silver substance was found in the backyard. Possibly fungus. (UFOR NSW).

27 Feb 1974, Latrobe, Tas, 2145 hrs

Two people out driving noticed an orange dot in the sky, partially obscured by trees which soundlessly approached the car after they stopped. Now only 250 metres away and 25 metres up it beamed brightly — looking like a triangle with rounded corners. They started the car and the object accelerated to high speed and vanished behind trees on a hill to the north. Later at 2200 hrs Mr J. noted an orange light pacing his vehicle close to Latrobe. (TUFOIC files).

4 March 1974, Esk, Qld, 0000 hrs

Looking through the car window a lady saw a self-illuminated object shaped like two saucers, one inverted on top of the other at 200 metres range. There were a row of 4–6 openings around the middle of the object, and emanating from a door was a 'fantastically bright shaft of light'. The lady left the area. (UFOR QLD files).

25 May 1974, Boobyalla Estate, Tas, 1930-2000 hrs

Three people watched a large 'banana', bright orange below and more of a fire red in the middle blending to bright yellow on top. It seemed to be only 6 metres off the ground and moved towards them. It passed in front of some fencing and a log heap 200 metres away. Seemingly 30 metres long it came even closer and the witnesses started the car they were in and left. No markings were found the next day. The same object is believed to have been seen in the same area over the next few nights. (TUFOIC files).

7 June 1974, near Goulburn, NSW, 2300-0300 hrs

A complex account by an elderly farmer concerns an object landing and the observation of 3–4 'men' in glowing silver suits who unloaded items from the object. (Bill Chalker and UFOR NSW).

Late July 1974, Jandowae, Qld

Strange markings were found on a property. There were eight holes scattered around in a 2-metre diameter depression. These holes were circular with a smooth, hard packed surface and bent at 60° away from the middle of the depression. (UFOR QLD *Contact*, 52, July/Aug 1974).

7 August 1974, Moorlands, SA, 1835 hrs

Two reporters in individual cars were driving at high speed when a small white light about 20 centimetres in diameter overtook one car then rose into the air at speed. (UFOR SA).

18 Sept 1974, The Marshes, Tas, 2015 hrs

Mr Richards was returning home along a back road when he noted a light apparently following him soundlessly. He stopped and it stopped. The light was yellow and ill defined, with no effects being noticed on the car. When he got home, his family saw a yellow banana shape to their east just above trees about 100–150 metres from the house. After 5 minutes it simply faded away. (TUFOIC investigation).

22 Sept 1974, Tayene, Tas, 1720 hrs

A lady was sitting in her car with the radio on when the whole area fit up including the inside of the car. The radio developed a very high pitched whistle. A glowing orange/silver object approached slowly, some 15 to 20 metres up and descending. She started the car with no trouble and backed off the road. The object approached within 3 metres up and 20–30 metres away — the radio still whistling. It then hung stationary over the middle of the road for a while before moving quickly away. The lady was shaken for days. (TUFOIC investigation).

Oct 1974, Maitland, NSW

Some time after an observation of an object with two 'light beams' which illuminated the ground, the reporter found two circular marks on his property below the hovering object. On examination the marks appeared to be fungus. (UFOR NSW Newsletter 43, April/May 1975).

Dec 1974, Pullabooka, NSW

A 5.8–5.9 metre diameter bare earth circle was found in a field of saffron thistles, which had been flattened in an anti-clockwise direction. Soil analysis revealed no cause. There were no signs of heat or radiation. (*The Sun-Herald*, Sydney, 14 Dec 1974. UFOR NSW investigation).

1975, near Coffs Harbour, NSW

Three persons were in a car when they slowed down at what they thought was the scene of an accident. A group of 4–6 entities with pointed heads and no discernible facial features surrounded the car. After a beam of light shone over the car they drove away. It is claimed that one woman received permanent damage to one eye. (Bill Chalker).

3 Jan 1975, Fingal, Tas

After a UFO observation two damaged areas of wattle tree and saplings were found. (TUFOIC investigation).

1975, Goolma, NSW

Reports of a hairy gorilla type creature from several people. (T. Bishop, Orange, NSW, in 'Canadian UFO Report' 3/2/22).

Easter 1975, Tailem Bend, SA

A group of people were camping, including one family who were sleeping in a station wagon. During the night they saw an unusual tight and the next day one of the children commented about seeing a 'face' at the window during the night. (Personal communication to Keith Basterfield, mid 1975).

28 Feb 1975, Clayton North, Vic, 2030 hrs

After hearing a strange humming sound and trying to locate its source, a man saw an object at 30° NE shaped like an elongated trapezium. It had flashing lights along its entire edge. He returned inside and when he looked later it had gone. (ACOSB no. 2).

March 1975, Highland Farm, Tas, night

A number of shooters were stopping at a farm. One went outside and saw an outline of a woman in the dress of the last century which glided up some steps. To another hunter, it looked like an area of oval light. It pulsed until it faded away to nothing. (TUFOIC annual report 1977).

March 1975, Highland Farm, Tas, 2015 hrs

A man noted two soundless flashing lights some 300 metres away, 15–20 metres above the ground, 5–7 metres apart. Beneath was a yellow glow which dimly lit the ground. The lights backed away pulsing all the time before speeding upwards at a steep angle. (TUFOIC annual report 1977).

5 March 1975, Deception Bay, Qld

Two men were out fishing when a UFO was noted. One of the men present said something similar happened to him some time previously and that a figure in a silver suit came out of the craft. (UFOR QLD).

8 March 1975, Lake Crescent, Tas, 1900 hrs

A circular bright light was seen by two people. (TUFOIC).

22 March 1975, Nebo, Qld, 2230 hrs

A very unusual object seen by several people was in a gravel storage area. A loud bang was heard and their vehicle seemed to shake in response. They fled from the scene. Unusual indentations, consisting of three oval shaped areas were later found. RAAF investigated. (ACOSB no. 10 p. 22).

10 April 1975, Woodsdale, Tas, 2200 hrs

One bright oval tight was seen at close range. (TUFOIC).

18 April 1975, Hayes, Tas, 2045 hrs

A round yellow and white tight was observed. (TUFOIC files).

6 May 1975, Doughboy, NSW

An almost perfect circle of dead grass was found with an inside diameter of 4 metres and an outside dimension of 5 metres. The circle soon deteriorated leaving bare earth. A log extended across part of the circle, but appeared to be not affected, although a cow pad was completely flattened. (*The Daily Examiner*, Grafton 14/5, 24/5, 6/6 and 10/6).

4 June 1975, Como, WA, 0255 hrs

A plant operator reported seeing a large white and yellow rotating 'saucer' at 25° SW. (ACOSB no. 2).

8 June 1975, Norah Head, NSW

A 'ghost light' 'attacked' a group of teenagers. Upon investigation several small trees and shrubs were found to have been knocked over. (UFOR NSW Newsletter 44).

July 1975, Buckland, Tas, 0650 hrs

A round yellow and orange object paced a car with electromagnetic effects noted. (TUFOIC).

July 1975, Hobart Airport, Tas, 2130 hrs

A car became hot, then 'stalled' and rolled to a halt. A spherical shape was seen over the middle of the road, 20 metres up, 200–300 metres distant, stationary. It was white/grey in colour, of metallic iridescent appearance and silent, about 5 metres diameter. The witnesses stared at the object as it took off very fast, spiralling. The car was then able to be re-started and they went home. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 12, p. 11).

31 July 1975, Runnymede, Tas, 0650 hrs

White and red lights were reported, together with a blue beam. (TUFOIC).

5 August 1975, Runnymede, Tas, 0620 hrs

A white round light was seen. (TUFOIC).

30 August 1975, Epping Forest, Tas, 0010 hrs

Two oval white and red lights were seen. (TUFOIC).

Sept 1975, Bradys Lake, Tas, 0230 hrs

A white/orange/yellow semi-circular light was reported by two people. (TUFOIC).

Sept 1975, Narrogin, WA

A depression was found in an oat field. Oats outside this were 1.5 metres tall, but inside only 20 centimetres, depressed in a SSE direction. No holes or actual indentations were found. The whole area was an approximate rectangle, with two corner pieces of 9-metre radius not flattened. Soil analysis revealed no cause. (UFOR WA. ACOSB 3 p. 10).

Nov 1975, Poatina Hills, Tas

Two shooters reported seeing a 2.2-metre tall black, running figure 50 metres away. It seemed to be running too fast to be a human being. Soon after this, a big tree fell over although there was no wind. (TUFOIC).

1975/6, Sandringham, Qld

Out camping, two men saw a light and later that night sighted red 'glowing' eyes about the level of tree branches about 6 metres in the air. No form was seen, but the two fled the area. (Secondhand anecdote via Dr Ralph Molnar).

Feb 1976, Hobart area, Tas, 0100 hrs

A man got up to attend a young child and upon seeing an 'aircraft coming down' he went to an adjacent oval where he found an object close to the ground. Through 'windows' he saw 'shapes', although these didn't move. There was an 'electric motor' type noise-humming. The object took off and was lost to view in the sky. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 10 p. 25).

12 Feb 1976, Magra, Tas, 0510 hrs

Two men working on a powerline saw a UFO with powerful red and green lights approaching, then hovering over a local church. It was said to be a 13-metre diameter 'saucer' having a shiny metallic surface. It flew off, returned, then flew off at speed. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 6 p. 17).

17 Feb 1976, Lyell Highway, Tas, 0330 hrs

Two truck drivers in one truck were paced for three hours. The object was described as a 16-metre yellow/white light in the shape of a dome. It paced the truck keeping an estimated 600 metres away shifting position if the men stopped the truck. They tried to use the wireless but got 'a lot of static' only. Finally the object climbed and disappeared. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 6 p. 17).

March 1976, Tea Tree Road, Tas, 2200 hrs

Five lights, orange in colour were observed. Electromagnetic effects were noted to a vehicle's headlights. (TUFOIC).

12 April 1976, Penrith, NSW, 2300 hrs

A woman in bed heard a whistling noise and then saw a large black sphere with a periphery of white light outside. It was some 10 metres across and approached and stopped by a fence. A second person noted an 'orange cloud' effect and also the object, which then vanished. They then noticed a bright orange sphere receding NE with a vapour trail. An area of long grass in a nearby paddock was swept in an outward direction, plus four plate-sized 'pod marks' were noted. (UFOR NSW investigation. ACOSB 7 p. 9).

18 May 1976, Bothwell, Tas, 1930 hrs

An oval red and white object was reported by two people. (TUFOIC).

26 May 1976, Lisdillon, Tas, 1850 hrs

An orange-red domed object, seen by people. (TUFOIC).

31 May 1976, Daw Park, SA, 0200 hrs

A silver suited, 165–175 centimetre tall, entity with black visor, white boots, and a box with a figure eight on his chest, was reported in a suburban backyard. When the single reporter approached him, he flew off towards a cigar shaped object in the sky, and entered it. The object then left. Some traces were found on the back lawn, but were gone by the time investigations got underway. (UFOR SA investigations).

7 July 1976, Brighton, Tas, 2330 hrs

Returning home, a person noticed a light extremely close behind at 7 metre up and 10 metres away. Round, with a yellow centre and a pale yellow edge, the object was no longer there after a bend was rounded. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 9 p. 19).

13 July 1976, Rochester, NSW, 1930 hrs

Two women, one on a motorbike and the other in a Kombi van were 'attacked' by a light which 'forced' the bike off the road then swung around in front of the van and travelled away. No sound was emitted by the bright white 1-metre diameter light, although the van's radio had 'static' on it. (VUFORS. ACOSB 8 p. 15).

15 July 1976, Walkers Flat, SA, 2115 hrs

A red object the size of the sun was seen, and the lights of a car were affected for a minute. The object then rapidly accelerated away. (UFOR SA files).

29 July 1976, Bagdad, Tas, 2130 hrs

A lady driving home saw two rows of flashing lights, 15 metres in length, 4 metres off the ground at 140 metres away. They seemed stationary in a paddock, then climbed away and were lost to sight in the NW. No traces were left. (TUFOIC annual report 1977).

31 July 1976, Bagdad, Tas, 1910 hrs

A round 'fluorescent' light headed towards a car from its right. It moved quickly and in a second or two filled up the field of vision of the occupants. Finally it shot over the roof and was gone. (TUFOIC annual report 1977).

August 1976, Heathcoate Road, NSW, 0340 hrs

A UFO was seen to land by a motorist. A figure came down a ramp, then re-entered, after which the object took off vertically. (Bill Chalker, open line radio Dec 1977).

2 August 1976, Granton, Tas, 0400 hrs

Mr Wood was driving home when all of a sudden a 'screen like' projection appeared in front of him, at the same time a loud distorted 'music' was heard. On this screen he saw a figure in profile. It wore a black tight fitting jacket, and light coloured trousers. Wood braked and seemed to drive wholly through the screen, which disappeared. (TUFOIC investigation).

15 August 1976, Boyer, Tas, 0145 hrs

Two people in a utility noted an approaching light, which then drew back. Later 'something' shone a light into the back window. It seemed 125 metres away, and 250 metres up, looking like a 'jelly bean with a dome on top', of an orange to yellow colour. The radio volume faded and the inside of the vehicle lit up. The road then swung under a cliff and the light wasn't seen again.

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25 Sept 1976, Karawinna, Vic

Four people in a vehicle noticed a group of red lights which were sitting in a paddock 150 metres away. The lights began flashing and rose slowly straight up, hovered briefly then departed to the east. One witness reported severe neck pains and ear trouble which required medical attention. Three days later a 25-metre circle of discoloured grass was found in a paddock. Samples were analysed by ACOS but nothing unusual was found. (VUFORS investigation. ACOSB 8 p. 16).

10 Oct 1976, Central Coast, NSW

Four cars travelling through a reserve were 'disturbed' by a disc-shaped object 28 metres above the vehicles. (UFOR NSW. ACOSB 8 p. 16).

10 Oct 1976, Bateau Bay, NSW, 2015 hrs

A creature 3 metres tall with huge arms and broad shoulders, no hair, eyes like a fly, a round mouth and arms with three joints, was seen climbing a cliff, and then disturbing a group of teenagers. (UFOR NSW. ACOSB 8 p. 16. UFOR NSW Newsletter 49).

4 Jan 1977, Lithgow, NSW, 2130 hrs

Noting an orange glow in the distance two people in a car thought they had seen a bushfire, until it moved towards and over the car. The car became enveloped in a natural fog patch which remained until the glow had passed by. (UFOR NSW. ACOSB 11 p. 21).

20 Jan 1977, Point Kenny, SA, 0145 hrs

A man stepped outside his house and saw a bright flash in the sky, like lightning, with the area being lit up. Looking up he saw a bright light, a sphere, travelling along which then took off at speed. (UFOR SA. ACOSB 11).

3 Feb 1977, Seven Mile Beach, Tas, 2130 hrs

Some children at a youth camp heard a noise and saw a spinning dome with flashing lights and 'windows'. In the centre window a figure was seen. It was thin, had a large collar, an arm to the right, and moved its head. The object moved away. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 11).

March 1977, Point Neill, SA

A 4.3 metre diameter doughnut ring was discovered on a farm property. Its centre was undisturbed and it had a circular hollow trough with a hard rim. Soil tests showed no cause. (*Adelaide Advertiser,* 12 March 1977. Personal investigation, Keith Basterfield).

18 April 1977, Port Macquarie, NSW, 0430 hrs

Standing by his truck a man became aware of an 18-metre diameter bright white light ascending over sand dunes 150 metres away. He stood there until it was 30 metres away, then entered his cabin. The light backed off, descended over the dunes and sped out to sea a little above the water before climbing away into the sky. (K. Blackman. ACOSB 12 p. 10).

22 April 1977, Yatala Vale, SA, 2345 hrs

For four seconds the engine, lights and radio of a car cut out as an oval light seemed to pass over the car. No sound. (UFOR SA investigations).

2 May 1977, Cal Lal, SA, 2000-2100 hrs

A man out camping says he saw a blue trapezoid shape 10 metres away, some 2 metres high by 75 centimetres (top) to 45 centimetres (bottom) wide. It was stationary. He looked away and it was gone when he looked back. (UFOR SA investigation. ACOSB 11 p. 21).

20 May 1977, Murbko, SA, 0630 hrs

A young nurse noticed a red glowing 'ball' 5–10 metres diameter sitting in a paddock a few metres from her car. It rose into the air and was lost to sight, soundlessly. (UFOR SA investigations. ACOSB 11 p. 21).

26 May 1977, Orange, NSW, 0000 hrs

An orange sphere with windows possibly resting on the ground was seen by a boy and his mother. It moved over a hill and was lost to view. Physical traces were found which consisted of four small cleared patches arranged in a trapezoid. The grasses and thistles within the area were not affected in any obvious way. Upon analysis it was found that an ionizing radiation would have resulted in the ground receiving less than 100 rads and that any heating involved in forming the cleared patches would have been below 205°. (UFOR NSW. ACOSB 11 p. 21).

30 May 1977, Opposum Bay, Tas, 2230 hrs

A single person out shooting reported observing a 'silver ball edged with red and a red tail', 10 metres off the ground, 400 metres away. It passed silently over the River Derwent and rose into the sky. (TUFOIC annual report 1978).

23 June 1977, Richmond, Tas, 1930 hrs

A rectangular shape with a pink flashing light 3 metres long and 1 metre high, seemed to float 100 metres away and 30 metres from the ground as a woman watched it. She moved to get a closer look but the object then left to the NW with no sound. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 12 p. 10).

25 June 1977, Casino, Tas, 0000 hrs

Two friends returning home noted flashing lights above the car, which paced them, then disappeared into the distance. There was no solid object merely a circle of 6–8 lights flashing yellow and pink/red. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 11 p. 22).

2 July 1977, Sandfly, Tas, 2300 hrs

A bright red light 3 metres off the road 200 metres distant was noted behind a car. The car lost power for 15–20 seconds and had to be clutch started. The light by then had disappeared. Later on the car did the same thing but this time there was no light visible. (TUFOIC annual report 1978. ACOSB 13 p. 11).

30 July 1977, Birdwood, SA, 1545 hrs

A large (200 metres long) pink object shaped like a 'Jumbo jet' was reported to have landed in a paddock beneath some powerlines, then taken off vertically, with no sound. No traces found and soil analysis revealed nothing unusual. (UFOR SA investigation).

16 Oct 1977, Meekatharra, WA, 1410 hrs

At least 12 people saw a disc shaped object rise up from a rocky outcrop. As it rose a sort of vapour rolled down the rocks. The disc, with domes on top and bottom, had a smooth 'metallic' lustre. A smaller bright red light came out of the side of the silver one and hovered before shooting out of sight. The silver one then rose and disappeared from view. (UFOR NSW Newsletter 53 p. 8).

17 Oct 1977, Mt Magnet, WA, night

Two people were paced in their car by a light which stayed 50 metres from them. Later eight people went out to the spot and reported seeing three round, pulsating red and green objects landed in a paddock. These took off, moved and landed several times before they left. While on the ground there appeared to be 'objects' (figures ?) around them, though these were hard to see. No ground traces found. (UFOR NSW Newsletter 53 p. 9).

9 Jan 1978, North Qld, 0030 hrs

Seeing her bedroom lit up by an external light source and hearing a low humming sound, a lady then saw a large black 'oblong' pass the window. As it did so the humming faded. (UFOR FNQ. ACOSB 13 p. 12).

10 Jan 1978, Armidale, NSW, 0400 hrs

A 25-year-old man encountered two aerial lights 10–12 metres up, a short distance away followed by a huge elongated object with 'portholes', hovering over the ground. Photos were taken but only show a blurred yellow shape. Looking again, all he saw was a 'mist' which encircled him and from which he heard a humming sound. The mist then disappeared leaving him alone. (UFOR NSW).

31 Jan 1978, Pawleena, Tas, 0410 hrs

A well-defined object (elliptical with two very bright white lights in the centre, performed a circular movement over a paddock only 1–2 metres above the ground, less than 200 metres from a person. It circled 3–4 minutes then passed over across trees and repeated its movements before departing at speed. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 13 p. 11).

5 Feb 1978, Balladonia, WA, 0400 hrs

A large 'spotlight' approached a vehicle and a diamond shape was seen with red/blue/green/yellow lights reflecting off the road below it. The driver stopped his truck and got out but couldn't see anything after being nearly blinded by the light. The light appeared off and on for several seconds, after this, over the next 30 minutes. (UFOR WA. ACOSB 13 p. 12).

5 March 1978, Leigh Creek, SA, 0210 hrs

A truck driver 'followed' a 1-metre diameter blue/green ball seemingly only 50–70 metres in front of him and 2–3 metres above the road. (UFOR SA).

11 May 1978, Kaban, Qld, 1930 hrs

Object seen approaching by son who alerts mother. Both observe object move and then hover above trees approximately 400 metres to the west. Alleged effects on television set and dogs during event. Object described as domed with blue pulsating light on top in the centre, and a bright shiny silver colouring. (UFOR FNQ Newsletter 3, Sept-Oct 1978).

10 Sept 1978, Port Macquarie, NSW, 2030 hrs

A soundless, hat-shaped object was seen by two men. It dropped behind trees and was lost to their view. (K. Blackman).

9 Oct 1978, Launceston, Tas, 2100 hrs

Husband and wife were returning home from Launceston, when they saw a bright yellow light in the sky. After a while this light descended alongside the road and paced their car. It did so for 40–45 kilometres. (TUFOIC).

27 Oct 1978, Smithfield, NSW, 0200 hrs

A woman was attempting to sleep but a continuous barking from dogs caused her to look out of the window to try and find the cause for their noise. She immediately saw a huge cigar-shaped object at a fairly high altitude, glowing silvery/white and facing four smaller 'cigars'. A series of sparks was seen. After about an hour the lady went back to bed and did not see the objects depart. (UFOR NSW).

9 Nov 1978, Hobart, Tas, 0315 hrs

A 24-year-old taxi driver on night shift was returning from dropping off a fare, when he saw a green shape drift out into the middle of the road. He braked the vehicle, but as he stopped the shape just vanished. He maintains that the two-way radio blacked out for a while. (TUFOIC).

25 Nov 1978, Sandford, Tas, 2250 hrs

Woken from sleep by her dog barking, a lady looked out through a window to see what was the matter. Fifty metres away down the rough dirt driveway she saw a 'doorway' of white light. The 'door' was 9–12 metres high, maybe 1 metre wide. Everywhere else was dark but through the door she saw the surroundings as if it was day. After a few minutes the doorway suddenly 'went out'. (TUFOIC).

28 Nov 1978, Hobart, Tas, 0100 hrs

Getting out of bed at 1 a.m. a lady went outside the caravan she was sleeping in. She noticed two 'figures' across the caravan park. She went back inside for a moment and upon coming out the figures were still there. They were dark shapes, estimated only 75 centimetres tall, but broader in body than a child, human shaped. There were no movements other than for the arms which continually rippled alongside their bodies. (TUFOIC).

16 Jan 1979, Bramston Beach, Qld, 2215 hrs

A 26-year-old lady was driving home from work when she noticed what she took to be the moon behind some trees to her left. She then realised that the moon was actually high in the sky to her right and three-quarters full. The object was perfectly round and golden in colour. Shortly thereafter the car's headlights began blinking on and off, then went off completely. It was not until the object was quite some distance away that the lights came on again. (UFOR FNQ. ACOSB 19 p. 18).

5 Feb 1979, Lawitta, Tas, 2150 hrs

Whilst driving, a man encountered a white light which seemed to envelope his car. The car lights and motor failed. The next thing that he can recall is waking up in hospital, after the police found him driving the car in a dazed condition with no lights on. The car had a flat battery and the oil level was low. An in-depth investigation was unable to be made as the man did not wish to find out what had happened. (TUFOIC. ACOSB 18 p. 18).

AUTHOR'S NOTE

If you observe something which you consider to be a UFO then please report the details to The Australian Centre for UFO Studies, PO Box 546, Gosford, NEW SOUTH WALES 2250.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Keith Basterfield is thirty-one years of age, married and is currently employed by an Australian Government Department. Having been interested in the subject of close encounters for many years, he has specialised in certain aspects of the wide ranging term Unidentified Flying Objects and in attempting to lift investigations of the phenomena from the realm of sensationalism to that of the professional scientist. He is Continental Co-ordinator for Australia and New Zealand for MUFON, a US research organisation, and one of the two Co-ordinators for the Australian Centre for UFO Studies. When not involved in in-depth study of the UFO phenomena, his interests include astronomy, meteorology, and computers.